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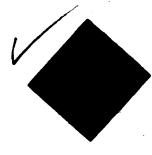
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EASHERN

F.O. 371

1948

PALESTINE



FILE No. 648

Reference:-

371 / 68646

1948

PALESTINE

648

S. answer MK1. 5 Tiger Works

JAN

Registry

DatedReceived in Registry

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Last Paper.

12284/12284/

References.

68646

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

The letter within concerns a request for export licences for the supply of civilian training aircraft to a Jewish aviation company in Palestine. The Ministry of Supply have promised an answer in respect of four of the aircraft (one Proctor and three Ansons) by to-night. The matter is, therefore, urgent.

In addition to the arguments used by the Colonial Office in this letter, the Linistry of Supply state that if we cannot supply Palestine Airways with British types of aircraft for training their pilots we shall probably lose orders for aircraft amounting to possibly £1,500,000.

On the other hand, Palestine Airways is to some extent under the financial control of the Jewish Agency, and would certainly be in no position to resist any commands in might choose to give concerning the use of these gircraft. Although they are civilian types, they could no doubt play a part in the impending civil war in Palestine. Since it is our aim to localise this civil war as completely as possible and, if we can, to prevent the supply of armaments to either side, it is vitally important that we ourselves should be free any suspicion that we have put lethal weapons into the hands of either Arabs or Jews.

I suggest that this political consideration should, in this instance, take precedence over the export possibilities to which the Ministry of Supply draw our attention, and that we should ask them to explain that, while we are willing, in principle, to assist Palestine Airways in the establishment of their services, we cannot supply aircraft for use in Palestine until the situation in that country is more stable.

HBelly 15th January, 1948

(Index.) (Action completed.)

Next Paper.

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15.1

371 / 68646

My A Silpsty (and the BIT Who row we up) our herative decision recorded in the above uninter

Par Sains Jan 17

NB. 17!

9. P.P. P.O. Col & Polistice 163 15/1

213. 21/

1. 8. P.P. 80. tel 245 21/1 Police tel 145 21/1

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		erence:-
C	9	

I am sending copies of this letter to Dunnett, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Miss Steen Ministry of Supply.

Yours sincerely,

(J. D. Higham)

John Milan

FO 371 / 68646

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

My Reference 22923/25/48

Your Reference

Colonial Office,
The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
London, S.W.1.

548

15th January, 1948.

JAN

My dear Beeley,

We spoke this morning about a request from Messrs. Shackleton for export licences for aircraft to Palestine. The Ministry of Supply are most anxious to get a very early answer since arrangements have been made to ferry the aircraft out next week and any delay may prejudice the chances not only of the present deal but of further orders for new aircraft.

The proposition is that Shackletons will sell the aircraft to a British holding company, the Astra Overseas Trading Company, who in turn will lend them to Palestine Airways for training purposes.

The aircraft concerned are 1 Proctor, 3 Anson Mark I, 5 Tiger Moths and 1 Dominie. All these aircraft are identical with types used in this country for civil flying training.

For a long time the Palestine Government tried to organise an air operating company in Palestine in which Jewish and Arab interests would be equally represented. Their efforts were unsuccessful and the deadlock was ended last October, on the initiative of the Palestine Director of Civil Aviation, by the

/agreeme nt

agreement of both Jewish and Arab interests concerned to proposals for the formation of two separate companies. The intention was that the Jewish Company would operate to Europe and the Arab Company to the Arab States. Both parties accepted these proposals which were approved by the Palestine Government.

We quite appreciate that the inclusion of Lydda in the area of the Jewish State may be liable to make the Arabs unduly suspicious of any moves by the Jews to get even their training facilities established. We appreciate also that although the Company which requires these aircraft, Palestine Airways, is a bona fide commercial venture, in which the Jewish Agency itself is financially interested (the capital being largely provided by South African interests), there can be no guarantee that these aircraft would not, should an emergency arise, be employed for military operations. They are however of types which are not suitable for offensive warfare and we think that on balance there would be no objection to the grant of export licences. here emphasise the very great dependence of the Jews on international communications and in particular on The training of sufficient pilots air transport. is undoubtedly a matter to which they will grant a high priority and if we do not supply them with aircraft they will undoubtedly succeed in obtaining machines from elsewhere.

371 / 68646

648.648 1/ INDEX

22925/25/48

(ypher (0.T.P.)

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham) Sent 15th January, 1948. 13.45 hrs.

IMMEDIATE No. 163 Secret.

Palestine Airways.

Messrs. Shackleton have applied for export licences for aircraft for above company to be ferried out next week.
Aircraft would be on loan for training purposes. Shackletons
anxious to accept because prospects future orders. Aircraft concerned are 1 Proctor, 3 Anson I, 5 Tiger Moths and 1 Dominie.

Pepartments concerned have been informed that Palestine Airways a bona fide commercial venture, and that although no guarantee can be given that aircraft would not be used for military purposes after the termination of Mandate, I see no objection to supply.

Copies sent to:-

Foreign Office - Mr. Beeley. - Mr. Edden. - Miss Steen. Ministry of Supply Ministry of Civil Aviation - Mr. Junnett. - Registry Tels. 68 ဘ

INWARD TELEGRAM

6 p.w.

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

- 648 648 11

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 21st January, 1948.

R. 21st " " 18.15 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No.145 Secret.

Palestine Airways.

Aircraft specified in your No.163 are considerably in excess of order for two Dominies placed by Palestine Airways not (repeat not) with Messrs Shackleton. There seems to be some confusion with Aviron, but matter is still under investigation here and I should be grateful if you could arrange to delay export in the meanwhile.

Copies sent to:Foreign Office - Mr. Beeley.
" " - Mr. Edden.

Ministry of Supply - Miss Steen.

Ministry of Civil Aviation - Mr. Dunnett.
" " " Registry Tels.

RECORD

OFFICE

Reference:-

1 / 68646

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

22923/42/3/48 Cypher (O.T.P.)

> TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham) FROM S. OF S. COLONIES.

> Sent 21st January, 1948. 16,30 hrs.

IMMEDIATE No. 245 Secret.

> Addressed to High Commissioner, Palesting, Repeated to B.M.E.O. No. 2 (for Air Vice harshal Sir W. Havers).

My telegram No. 163.

Palestine Airways.

It has now been decided, for political reasons, to refuse export licences for these aircraft, although they are required for training for commercial purposes.

- Should be grateful for early indication of your views on general question of importation of aircraft for these and other purposes since it is clear that refusal of expert licences here will be ineffective if imports from other countries are permitted. Some imports may be necessary if local airlines are to be allowed to operate. Please also say whether import licences had been granted for aircraft mentioned in my telegram No. 163.
- Report from News Chronicle correspondent datelined Jerusalem Monday states that Army Disposale land representatives have sold to Aviron 25 Auster aircraft Planes stated to have been sold in oren market to highest bidder, and that though not all serviceable, purchasees would be able to assemble from them eight or ten planes to form nucleus of Jewish State Air Force. Correspondent also states that regotiations are on root for sale, also in open market, of armoured scout cars, mortars and other weapons,
- 4. Ministry of Supply have been asked to call for urgent report from Cairo. Grateful for any observations you may have. If, as I imagine, these reports are unfounded, you will no doubt take suitable steps to give widest publicity to this.

Copies sent to:= Foreign Office Mr. Beeley. Ministry of Supply Mr. E. Haynes. Mr. W.J. Orr. Foreign Office - Mr. Edden. Ministry of Civil Aviation Mr. L.J. Dunnett. Registry Tels.

686

(Action

E : 940

PALESTINE

22 JAN 1948

aircraft to Palestins Registry E940/148/31 Afort to litter (El48/648/11) transach copy of litter which has been been to the Mores Rightlites FROM E Haynes Atil informing them that the great of the export because cannot be recommended it the No. Ill Leggly Dated Samp a Try 37 the rangercial last and questions whither action will, today wint the supply of this equipment. Onthe comment. Received in Registry 19 Jan 648 In this case it is included - from an

Last Paper.

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

F.O. point of view - whether the Ziensists get aenglanes from elsewher or not. The overiding considerations are that H.M. G. should: 11) not derast from their attitude of neutrality by equipping either side in Palistine; (i) remain in a rosition to result other foremments against at supplying either side.

Shina Depty for any obs.

Mr Haynes letter to me of the 15th December last is being Lealt with on Far Easkern (China) Green papers; these are now in action but I have marked them for Easken Dept. to see I agree that there is no valid parallel altream Palestine and China. China is more comparable with Greece, an Mat there is a Central Col which all the Powers including ourselves recognize, and a Communist faction in a state of hostilities with that good. If any more infinis immediately requires, I shall be gles to discuss the maker orally

Next Paper.

(Index.)

(Action completed.)

~	Mr Heley	
	GABBurro	w
	23.1	MAC

L.H. 16. Telegrams: Airprod, London. MINISTRY OF SUPPLY, . TELEPHONE: FRANKLIN 2211. Extn. 3317

Our Ref. 8/Imp & Exp. Your Ref.

MILLBANK,

S.W.1.

Dear Beeley.

Further to Higham's letter to you of the 14th January and to our recent telephone conversations regarding the proposed supply of aircraft and aeronautical equipment to Palestine by W.S. Shackleton Ltd., I enclose a copy of a letter I have sent to the firm informing them that the grant of export licences cannot be recommended at the present time.

I am not very happy about this decision. You may perhaps be aware of a recent case in which your Office refused to allow the sale of aircraft and engines to the Chinese Government with the result that the order was obtained by the Canadians, whose authorities apparently saw no reason to oppose the transaction. In the present instance, I fear that there is a strong possibility that the Palestine company may turn to American, French, Czech or even Dominion sources from which they may well be able to obtain the same or very similar types of aircraft and equipment. As I have pointed out in my letter of the 15th December to Scott of your Far Eastern Department, regarding the Chinese case, it is not difficult to overlook a commercial loss when it results from an arms-traffic embargo which is more or less effective, but here we may be suffering commercial loss without stopping the supply of the equipment in question.

I should be grateful for your comments.

I am copying this letter to Higham (C.R.O), Couldry (Board of Trade), Dunnett (M.C.A), Wing Commander Freeman (Air Ministry) and Cardo (Admiralty).

Yours sincerely.

H. Beeley, Esq., C.B.E., Eastern Department. Foreign Office. London,

S.W.1.

RECORD

OFFICE

Ex. 43/46/Air 3(b). WHE/5071.

16th January, 1948.

For the attention of J. Beard, Esq.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Ministerof Supply to refer to the visit of your representatives to this Department to-day regarding export licence applications submitted by your company to the Board of Trade in respect of aircraft and aeronautical equipment destined for Palestine.

In confirmation of the information given to your representatives, I am to state that the following applications have been referred to this Department by the Board of Trade for comment and support but that we are unable to recommend the granting of the licences at the present time:

Your reference.	Item.
SM/3/22/47 SM/2/22/47 SM/1/22/47	One D.H. Tiger Moth aircraft One D.H. Tiger Moth aircraft. One D.H. Tiger Moth aircraft
SM/24/1 SM/24/2 SM/7/1/48/3	One D.H. Tiger Moth aircraft One Tiger Moth aircraft D.H.
SM/8/1/48/1 SM/7/1/48/4	Three Avro Anson Mk. I aircraft One Percival Proctor aircraft Two Gipsy Major Aero engines
SM/7/1/48/7 SM/7/1/48/5	Two Cheetah IX Aero engines 24 Outer Covers for Tiger Moth aircraft 24 Inner Covers for Tiger Moth aircraft.
SM/7 / 1/48/8	2 Outer Covers, Tail Wheel for Anson aircraft 2 Inner Tubes, Main Wheel for Anson aircraft
SM/7/1/48/6	6 Outer Covers, Main Wheel for Anson aircraft 6 Inner Tubes, Main Wheel for Anson aircraft 4 Outer Covers, Tail Wheel for Anson aircraft
SM/9/1/48/51 SM/9/1/48/2 SM/9/1/48/4 SM/9/1/48/1	One D.H. 89 Rapide aircraft One D.H. Tiger Moth aircraft One D.H. Tiger Moth aircraft
514/9/1/48/3	One D.H. Tiger Moth aircraft One D.H. Tiger Moth aircraft

I am, Gentlemen, Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd) E. HAYNES

W.S. Shackleton, Ltd., 175, Piccadilly, London,

> Copies to: E.L.B. Board of Trade (Mr. J.H.E. Biggs) E.L.B. Board of Trade (Mr. W. Hadlow).

RECORD OFFICE

371 / 68646

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Last Paper. 140

Received in Registry 24 Ind

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

rept. M' Newling Palinet Office from M" Seeley

Jan 26 Al. In Newling Date off from in Baley

(Action completed.)

Next Paper.

Plus ser also a draft minute from the 5/5 to the Prime Minister, whenis the paper. The M. of Supply have not yet had an answer to their telegram, and an not responsible for the report in this mornings press that the aircraft have already been delivered. The report may nevertheless to true, and I have arked Mr. Mathieson and bol. Sharters to a meeting at 11 a.m. on Monday, in order that we may consider whether then is any way of necessing the planes after delivery.

H.Beeley 24)

mbright

a 26 miles

 \Box O

(i) BMEO tilegram of confirming the disposer

67 BMEO tilegran ashing whether they many dispose of more. They have her told not to.

(ii) My letter W Mr. Newling, covering a tologram which he has now sent.

Fur the letter to M Newling
Submitted. I understand
from M Beeley that Sir

O. Sergent wanted thus

athon taken

MS. Berins

fan 19

143. 29

8n-P.P. M/Kapply tel KRMED. STONE DISME 942 29/1 - BME.O. .. 2129 31/,

H13. 32

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I think we could probably agree to the completion of this transaction, since the Dispose's Mission an resonably salisfied that the

Retal New York 1496

Ratio 182

Rogdad 184.

Tellola 81

Benut 16

Names 65

RMEO 108

Yeb-4

10

Hel, W Yorn 1417
New York 491
bains 183
bogolad 185
Ledda 82
Beinet 76
Damencus 63
Ruman 66
M180 109
Heh 4

Reference:-

9

the planes in question would be just to a ligitimete use in Egypt. But I think it is covered of the Prime Minister's recent direction, and that the Ministry of Supply must therefor put up a case for the appoint of the Efs, to benied Suntany and Minister 7 Defence. Su also & my minute on E 1415.

H-13eeley "/

Jagen 1. FL. lynn 14/2

In P.P. BMED tel & My Legyly. 159 STOWE DISME 14 Mr. bor informed y our views by telphone H3.15/2



PALESTINE

A Draft Minute from the Secretary of State to the Prime Minister

Rumours appeared in the British Press at the beginning of this week to the effect that the War Disposals Board in the Middle East had sold twenty-one Auster Aircraft (these are two-seater reconnaissance planes) to a Company controlled by the Jewish Agency for Palestine. My Department at once requested the Ministry of Supply to issue instructions that all action on sales of aircraft should be suspended and a report submitted. The Ministry of Supply took this action, but have not yet received any official information from the Middle East.

It is now reported, in the Daily Herald and Daily Telegraph of this morning, that the Ministry of Supply telegram arrived too late and that the aircraft have already been delivered and taken to Tel-Aviv.

This sale, if it is true that it has been completed, is entirely contrary to the policy of His Majesty's Government, which is to withhold supplies of arms and all warlike material from both Arabs and Jews in Palestine. It would give rise to serious resentment against us in Arab countries, and will make it more difficult for me to dissuade the Arab Government from taking precipitate action in Palestine.

In order that similar incidents may be avoided in the future, I hope you will feel able to issue a directive to the effect that all transactions involving the disposal of material of military value in or to the Middle East must in future be cleared personally by the Minister of Defence, the Secretary of State for the Colonies and myself (or in my absence you).

I am sending copies of this minute to the Minister of Defence, the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Minister of Sepply,

The second of the contract of

PUBLIC RECORD. OFFICE

Reference:-

FO 371 / 68646

Stow Disme 329

CYPHER TELEGRAM
To B.M.E.O. Cairo from M.of Supply.
Sent 5-0 p.m. 21.1.48.

STOW DISME 829 Secret.

For Havers from Orr.

rned at reports of sale of aircraft
Suspend action in hand of all aircraft Foreign Office concerned at reports Haganah and Aviron Co. Suspend action Urgent. sales and report fully.

0.T.P.

Distribution: Originator - P/O.D. Information. A.S/O.D., 0.D.2. F.2. F.O. (Mr. Beeley)-A.D. of D. (A.4) (Mr.anthony)

RECORD OFFICE

Man July

15

المساسا

27 JAN 1948

ER ENCLAIR TELEGRAM Stow Disme 2122 From B.M.E.O. Cairo to M.of Supply.
Dated 26.1.48. received 11-30 a.m. 27.1.48.

STOW DISME 2122

Ref. my Stow Disme 2118.

May we proceed with completion of sale and .e/delivery of items at para. 4(D).

Distribution:
Action copy to P/O.D.
Information. A.S/O.D., O.D.2.,
F.2.,
F.0. (Mr.Beeley).
A.D.of.D. (A.4)Mr.Anthony.

FO

PUBLIC RECORD. OFFICE

1 / 686

S T O H

FROM BRITISH MIDDLE EAST OFFICE CAIRO TO

MINISTRY OF SUPPLY

No. 2118 STO! DISME

23rd January 1948.

D. 5.43 p.m. 23rd January 1948.

R. 6.14 p.m. 23rd January 1948.

LILEDIATE

Reference Stow Disme 829.

Sales of aircraft have been carried out on your authorities F/A/54/5/D(AllA) and F/A/31/D(AllA) dated respectively 8th February and 29th April 1917.

mircraft declared by R...F. on 14th July 1947 - see our 300/227/DH4 dated 23rd mugust 1947.

Progress of sales reported under 300/227 etc. dated 31st December 1947 replied to in your 12/Sales/A/26,182/D(A1LA) dated 12th January 1948.

Reported in my 300/227/DMlLa dated 19th July full details of sale of all aircraft. All located in Egypt have been sold as follows

- (a) Six Magister Egyptian Air Force and two Auster 5 to Egyptian Mines Department
- (b) Six Oxford one to hamed Esmat El Gamal Cairo who is army contractor for delivery of mail etc. from Egypt to Palestine and
- (c) Eight Sea Otter to Squadron Leader J. Patient 15 Orescent Lane, Clapham Common S. W. and
- (d) Seven Auster 5 and one Walrus 1 to Samir Zul [grp. undec.] car Bey contractor on behalf of Arab interests.
- Sales of (a), (b),(c) completed and cannot suspend. (d) no delivery notes and action suspended.

Machines located in Palestine, eighteen Auster 5, two Auster 3, and one Oxford have been sold to Aviron Palestine Aviation Company P.O.B. 834 Tel Aviv. All were collected on 21st January and 22nd January. Have instructed our Jerusalem Office to inform Palestine Government direct and follow any instructions they may give.

rrrrr

. DISTRIBUTION.

ACTION CRAY TO O.D.2.

A.S/O.D., O.D.2.,

PAPORMATION F.2. FO (Mr. Beeley)

A.D. of D. (A.4)

(Mr. Anthony).

371 /68640

Top Secret. Secret. Confidential. Restricted. Open.

Draft.
Mr. Newling,
Cabinet Offices.

From: -

Mr. H. Beeley.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1. 29th January, 1948.

Will you please refer to my letter of 26th January enclosing a draft telegram for despatch to General Hewer about the disposal of the 21 Austers.

Sir Orme Sargent has pointed out that the telegram which has been sent off, while emphasising the importance of avoiding any similar incident in future, does not specifically instruct General Hewer to refer doubtful cases back to London. I therefore attach a short draft, as you suggested which might be sent as a chaser to the earlier telegram.

9

NOTHING

7

Registry No.

Draft.

Top Secret. Secret. Confidential. Restricted. Open.

Telegram.

No.

(Date)

Repeat to:-

En Clair. Code. Cypher.

Distribution :-

Copies to:

F. O.,

194

Despatched

M.

Following for General Hewer.

My telegram No. of should have stated specifically that any doubtful cases should be referred to London for decision. In view of the difficulty of defining the categories of stores, the disposal of which may arouse political repercussions, this is the safest procedure.

24.3. 29/

68646

FOREIGN OFFICE, 8. W.1.

29th January, 1948.

19

(E 1044/648/31)

Dear Newling

Will you please refer to my letter of 26th January enclosing a draft telegram for despatch to General Hewer about the disposal of the 21 Austers.

2. Sir Orme Sar ent has pointed out that the telegram which has been sent off, while emphasising the importance of avoiding any similar incident in future, does not specifically instruct General Hewer to refer doubtful cases back to London. I therefore attach a short draft, as you suggested to Beith which might be sent as a chaser to the earlier telegram.

your Lincoly

(H. Beeley)

A.J. Newling Esq., C.B.E., M.V.C., T.D., Cabinet Offices.

C

371 / 68646

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1. 29th January, 1948.

20

Following for General Hewer.

My telegram No. of

should have stated specifically that any

doubtful cases should be referred to London for decision. In view of the

difficulty of defining the categories of

stores, the disposal of which may cause

political repercussions, this seems the

safest procedure.

Papir . 1.0. M' Beeley 1.0. M'Mbathumn W.O. Hol, Charteris My Lapply. M'ON.

Draft.

Telegram.

(Date).....

Repeat to:-

E1044/648/31

CUT FILE

21

POREIGN OFF.CE, 3. 4. 1.

26th January, 1948.

Dear Newling,

You will have seen that 21 mater aircraft have been sold by the Bitish Stores Disposals Mission in the Middle East to a company controlled by the Jewish Agency for malestine.

The Foreign decretary taken a most serious view of this incident. It is true that the master is a small and unarmed plane, but the possession of a score of these by one side when the other has no aircraft at all might be of immense adventage in the type of warfare now beginning in Palestine. The transaction is therefore likely to give rise to considerable resentment in the Arab countries, and to reduce our chances of personating arab Governments not to intervene directly in Palestine. It will also be an embarrassment the direction of isolating the conflict in Palestine and preventing the shipment of arms to the combatants from any quarter.

A meeting took place in the Foreign Office this morning, at which representatives of the Colonial Office, the war Office and the Ministry of Supply agreed that I should request you to send General Hewer a telegram on the lines of the enclosed draft. The text has been ap roved by the three Departments I have mentioned and I shall be grateful if, provided you agree, you will send it through your usual channel.

Yours since rely,

(SGD.) H. BEELEY.

M. V. O., T. D., Cabinet Offices, S. d. 1.

/68646

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft. telegram

Z

WRITTEN

NOTHING

22

Following for General Hewer.

Ministers are greatly concerned by the news that 21 Austers have been disposed of in Palestine to a company controlled by the Jewish Agency. It is true that the Auster is a small and unarmed 'plane, but the possession of a score of these by one side when the other side has none may be a major factor in the type of fighting which we anticipate between Arabs and Jews in Palestine.

- 2. We also realise that all material which is being sold by the British Stores Disposals Mission is in some sense of military value, and that consequently a complete prohibition on sales of stores of military value in Palestine would mean that the Mission could not dispose of anything at all. A line has to be drawn between ordinary stores and special supplies which may affect the military issue and the disposal of which to one side may cause bitter resentment on the other.
- more precisely in London, and must leave it to your discretion and that of the Disposals

 Mission, with which we understand you have already established liaison. For your guidance, however, the sale of these aircraft is particularly unfortunate because it is headlined in the world's press, and because it will consequently add greatly to the difficulties of the Foreign Secretary, who is

/trying...

-O 37

71/6864

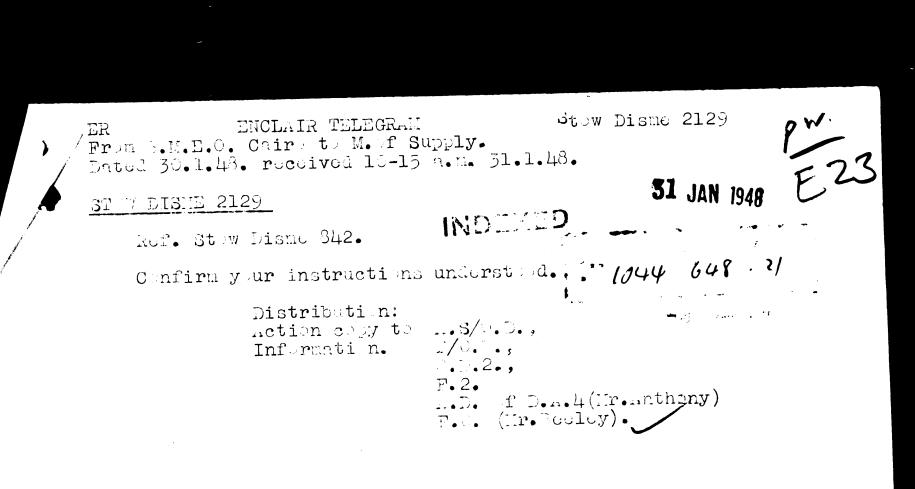
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Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46

trying to dissuade the Arab Governments from intervening directly in Palestine. Please therefore examine the situation in consultation with the Disposals Mission, in order to make sure that no similar incident occurs during the remaining period of our withdrawal from Palestine. We are considering separatily whether) Is there fanything that can be done to neutralize the effect of the disposal of these aircraft to the Jews / The only suggestion that occurs to us here is that the operation of the planes might be impeded Meanwhile they should be deried all
by denial of spares and assistance with servicing.

Ministry of Supply ask that any catignies of meter. I while an imburgo is impores should no longer to duline surplus & the so Services in Palestine

WRITTEN NOTHING



O 371 /68646

RECORD. OFFI CE

1044 648 1, 29 JAN 19481

Stow Disme 842

ER ENCLAIR TELEGRAM
To B.M.E.O. Cairo from M.of Supply.
Sent 4-0 p.m. 29.1.48.

STOW DISME 842

Further to Stow Disme 838. Ministry have given undertaking that no further sale of aircraft shall take place without F.O. consultation. Please confirm this understood.

Distribution:
Originator - A.3/O.D.
Information. P/O.D., O.D.2.,
F.2.,
A.D.of D.A.4(Mr.Anthony)
F.O. (Mr.Beeley)

TOBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Ö

371 / 68646

MOST IMMEDIATE parliamentary question to be asked on the 4th February My immediately freedery telegram tollowing is text. Sir Jocelyn Lucas Z To ask the Minister of Defence if the Auster aeroplanes sold in Palestine by His Majesty's Government are capable of military use, and if he will give a definite assurance that no arms, munition or material that can be used for warlike purposes will be sold by His Majesty's Government to either disputant in that area."

Braft Answer

recently The Auster aircraft/sold to the Aviron Palestine 'Aviation Company were not only demilitarised before disposal, but were all in an unserviceable condition. Their sale was consequently not inconsistent with the policy of denying warlike material to both Arabs and Jews in Palestine, Since, however, it is possible to adapt civil aircraft for military use, steps have now been taken to ensure that no British planes will pass into Arab or Jewish hands in Talestine so long as there is danger of civil war in that country

Disposal is at present proceeding of large quantities of surplus military supplies in Palestine which are of a non-warlike nature and which have a civilian use; it is not proposed to discontinue the sales of these stores, Every possible precaution is being taken to ensure that surplus warlike material does not pass into the hands of Jews or Arabs in that country

There is at present an embargo on the entry into Palestine, both by sea and over the land Irontiers, of all warlike material The Government of Palestine will enforce this embargo to the best of their ability until the Mandate comes to an end on the 15th May

It is also the policy of H.M. Government to refuse permission for the export of military material from Great Britain to any part of the Middle East, except under existing contracts which have been undertaken as a result of our Treaty obligations to certain Arab Governments H.M. Government have no reason to suppose that the material supplied by them under such contracts will be used in Palestine.

371 / 68646

POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO WASHINGTON

No. 1417

D. 5.16 p.m. 4th February, 1948.

4th February, 1948.

Repeated to New York (U.K.Del) No. 491 No. 183 Cairo No. 135 Bagdad Jedda No. 82 No. 77 Beirut No. 65 Damascus No. Amman No. 109 Cairo B.M.E.O. Jerusalem

MOST IMEDIATE

My immediately preceding telegram. Following is text.

"Sir Jocelyn Lucas - To ask the Minister of Defence if the Auster aeroplanes sold in Palestine by His Majesty's Government are capable of military use, and if he will give a definite assurance that no arms, munition or material that can be used for warlike purposes will be sold by His Majesty's Government to either disputant in that area!

Answer

The Auster aircraft recently sold to the Aviron Palestine Aviation Company were not only demilitarised before disposal, but were all in an unserviceable condition. Their sale was consequently not inconsistent with the policy of denying warlike material to both Arabs and Jews in Palestine. Since, however, it is possible to adapt civil aircraft for military use, steps have now been taken to ensure that no British aircraft will pass into Arab or Jewish hands in Palestine so long as there is danger of civil war in that country.

Disposal is at present proceeding of large quantities of surplus military supplies in Palestine which are of a non-warlike nature and which have a civilian use; it is not proposed to discontinue the sales of these stores. Every possible precaution is being taken to ensure that surplus warlike material does not pass into the hands of Jews or Arabs in that country.

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Registry No.

Draft.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

SECRET

Telegram, No. Wib

Washington.

Date. Feb. H

U.K. Delegation Caire, 182.
Bagder, 134.
Jedder, 81. Beirut, 76. Damas cut, 62. Amman, 65. B.M.B.O., 108.

Cypher.

Jerusalem.

Distribution Political.

Addressed to Washington telegram No. 1416 of February H' repeated for information to U.K. Delegation, New York, Cairo, Bagdad, Repeat Immediate to Jedda, Beirut, Damascus, Amman, B.M.E.O. and Jerusalem.

> My immediately following telegram contains the text of a question which will be put to the Minister of Defence in the House of Commons this afternoon, the 4th February, and of the Minister's answer. Please convey the text to Lovett at

> once, and arrange for the fullest possible

publicity after 3.30 p.m. London time.

686

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher/OTP

POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO WASHINGTON.

No. 1416

4th February 1948. D. 5 p.m. 4th February 1948

Repeated to U.K. Delegation New York No. 490

Caire No. 182

Bagdad No. 134

Jedda No. 81

Beirut No. 76

Damascus No. 62

Amman No. 65

B.M.E.O. Caire No. 108

Jerusalem

MOST LAMEDIATE.

Addressed to Mashington telegram No. 1416 of February 4th repeated for information to United Kingdom Delegation New York, Cairo, Bagdad, Jedda, Beirut, Damascus, Amman, British Middle Mast Office Cairo, and Jerusalem.

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2. Please convey the text to Levett at ence, and arrange for the fullest possible publicity after 3.30 p.m. Lenaen time.

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WJO/JS

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Telegrams: Splycontra Wire,

Telephone: Victoria 3811.

Any communication on the subject of this letter should be addressed to:—

THE SECRETARY the following reference

12/Sales/0'Seas/98

OVERSEAS DISPOSALS



MINISTRY OF SUPPLY ROOM 449

Gt. Westminster House,

HORSEFERRY ROAD.

S.W.I.

5th February, 1948.

Your Ref....

Dear Beeley,

1044

May I refer to our recent phone conversations regarding the sale of aircraft in Palestine (and Egypt). We shall be glad to have your early agreement to the completion of the contract for the sale of seven Auster 5 and one Walrus 1 referred to at (d) in STOWDISME 118 of the 23rd January.

Yours sincerely,

W. J. ORR.

H. Beeley Esq., Foreign Office, Downing Street, S.W.1.

RECORD

686

Cypher/OTP

STOW

FROM B.M.E.O. CAIRO TO MINISTRY OF SUPPLY

No. 159 Stow Disme

14th February, 1948

D. 12.00 noon 14th February, 1948 R. 2.05 p.m. 14th February, 1948

Further my 2,118.

Decision required whether sale of seven Auster and one Walrus to Samir Zulficar Bey can proceed or is to be cancelled.

- Deposit held full purchase price offered is £E.3300.
- 3. Fifteen tenders received.
- 4. In view of previous sales and latest comments of the High Commissioner Palestine suggest sale should proceed.
- See my letter dated January 19th for details of aircraft sales.

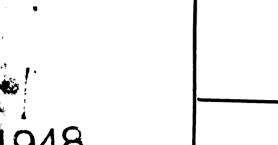
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PALESTINE

28 JAN 1948

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from Lis 0. Jargent

28 Jan

(Minutes.)

9. P.P. Piters to 182 25/

The Lebanese Minister has just called on me to express his concern at the effect in Lebanon and other Arab countries of the news that our Disposals Mission in the Middle East have sold 21 Auster aircraft to He handed me the report, which has been the Jews. received from the Arab office in Palestine, and which I have attached behind this paper to show how suspicious the Arabs are of anything which they can interpret as a sign of British partiality towards the Jews. He feels that confidence in us, not only among the Palestine Arabs but throughout the Arab countries, must have been very seriously shaken by the disposal of the Austers. He believes very strongly that recovery of these planes by the Elestine Government would have an effect in restoring confidence out of all proportion with their intrinsic value, and urged that we should do everything possible to recover them.

We had already decided to approach the Colonial Office on this matter, and I now submit a draft letter to them, sovering a draft telegram to Jerusalem.

We must take into account the bearing of any action we take in this matter on our responsibility for the American request which we have now received for suspension of the delivery of arms, to the Arab States. On the one hand a recovery of the Austers would provide the American Zionists with another anti-British cry and so increase the pressure on the State Department. But on the other hand, failure to recover them will, I think, appreciably diminish our chances of persuading the Arab Governments to agree to a temporary suspension of deliveries.

(Action completed.)

Next Paper.

1360

H. Beeley. 7 28th January, 1948.

Letter to Six 7. Mond Signed by Six 0.

29470 F.O.P. Cargent and tent JB tan 28

(with drust tel.)

371 / 68646

INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher(O.T.P.)

PROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 26th January, 1948.
R. 26th " 16.40 hrs.

78.

IMMEDIATE

No.190 Secret

Addressed to S. of S.
Repeated to British Middle East Office No.19
(for Air Vice Marshal Havers).

Your secret telegram No. 245.

Palestine Airways.

You will now have had my secret telegram No.182 which makes it clear that sale of aircraft to Aviron was a normal transaction. I am further informed by B.M.E.O. that no (repeat no) sales of armoured ecout cars, mortars and other weapons are being negotiated. These items will not (repeat not) be sold and B.S.D.O. have been instructed to consult this Government in future before any sales of defence material are made.

- The question of issue of import licences for aircraft is under consideration in consultation with the D.C.A. in the light of paragraph 2 of your telegram under reference. Steps will be taken to ensure that only imports designed to meet strictly civil needs of local airlines are permitted.
- J. I am arranging for suitable publicity to be given to the facts of this case.

Copies sent to:
Foreign Office - Mr. Beeley.

Ministry of Supply - Mr. E. Haynes.

- Mr. W.J. Orr.

Foreign Office - Mr. Koden.

Ministry of Divil Aviation

- Mr. L.J. Dunnett

- Registry Tels.

371/68646



TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 25th January, 1948.

R. 25th 15.15 hrs.

IMMEDIATE No. 182 Secret.

> Addressed to S. of S. Repeated to B.M.E.O. Cairo (for Air Vice Marshal Sir W. Havers, No. 18).

Your telegram No. 309.

Sale of aircraft to Aviron.

My information is that this sale was effected through Middle East Disposals and as part of a long term policy. This Government was not consulted. I understand further that the sale was effected in the open market after extracts to tender had been sent to the Arabs as well as to other purchasing concerns.

In these circumstances, and provided the truth is known, I do not feel that there need be undesirable reaction.

Copies sent to:-

Foreign Office Ministry of Supply

Foreign Office Ministry of Civil Aviation - Mr. L.J. Dunnett,

- Mr. Beeley. - Mr. E. Haynes.

- Mr. W.J. Orr.

- Mr. Edden.

- Rogistry Tols.

RECORD.

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

22923/42/3/48 Cypher (0.T.P.)

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

Sent 24th January, 1948. 22.00 hrs.

IMMEDIATE No. 309 Secret.

> Addressed to High Commissioner, Palestine. Repeated to B.M.E.O. No. 2 (for Air Vice Marshal Sir W. Havers).

My telegram No. 245.

Palestine Airways.

Ministry of Supply now confirm sale of 21 aircraft to Aviron. Latter took delivery on 21st January. Foreign Office gravely concerned about effect of this on Arab States and I should be grateful for your observations if possible by Monday morning and any suggestions for retrieving the situation.

Copies sent to:-

Foreign Office

Ministry of Supply

Ministry of Civil Aviation

- Mr. Beeley.
- Mr. Edden.
 - Mr. E. Haynes.
- Mr. W.J. Orr. Mr. L.J. Dunnett.

- Registry Tels.

BLIC RECORD.

OFFI CE

Registry	
No.	

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

H.B.

Draft.

JERUSALEM.

Telegram.

No.....

(Date).....

Repeat to:

B.M.E.O.

H13erly

Bit Cláir. Baile.

Cypher.

Distribution:—

Copies to :—

IMMEDIATE SECRET.

Your telegram No. 190.

Ministers are gravely concerned by the consequences of the disposal of these aircraft. There is evidence of strong resentment in the Arab States at what must seem to them a major departure from our policy of neutrality. The fact that we have disposed of these planes also makes it more difficult for the Foreign Secretary to argue in favour of the maintainance of the U.S. embargo on supplies of arms, or to hold back the Arab Governments from open intervention in Palestine.

urgently the possibility of recovering these planes. If you have power to requisition you should at once endeavour to do so unless you see overwhelming objections to this course. If you consider such action impossible. I should be glad to know what alternative improposals you have for/mobilising these aircraft, permanently if possible but at least until the Mandate has terminated.

SJan 28

71/686/

Registry No.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft.

Sir T. Lloyd, C.M.C. Colonial Office.

From:

Sir Orme Sargent.

HoBerly 29

Believe and

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1 36

I believe our two Departments have been in consultation on the situation created by the recent sale to the Jewish company in Palestine of 21 Auster aircraft. Since the United Nations took a decision on Palestine which has sortamed the whole Arab world, we have been trying to dissuade the Arab Governments from adding to the High Commissioner's difficulties in Palestine. now faced with the serious threat that the United States Government may lift in favour of the Jews/ the embargo which they imposed on the 5th December on all shipments of arms to the Middle East. If these efforts are to succeed we must be able to show that we have not offended ourselves by supplying either side in Palestine with equipment of substantial military value. In the case of the Arabs, it is useless for us to attempt to influence their policy unless they can be made to feel that we are doing nothing to assist the United Nations and the Jewish Agency in implementing the plan of partition. must seem to the Arabs to be a major departure from our policy of neutrality, and an indication of pro-Zionist sympathy; it is useless, so far as public opinion in the

Government.

3. It does not seem to us that damage done by this transaction can be repaired short of

Arab States is concerned, to explain that the

sale occurred owing to a technical inadvertence

and is not an expression of the policy of H.M.

68646

REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITH-DUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON hope you will agree to send a telegram to
the High Commissioner asking him to examine
urgently the possibility of recovering
them, and if he thinks this impossible to make
alternative proposals. I enclose a draft
hote; indicating the lines on which we should
like him to approach the High Commissioner.

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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28th January, 1948.

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News of the disposal of these 21 Austers must seem to the Arabs to be a major departure from our policy of neutrality, and an indication of pro-Zionist sympathy; it is useless, so far as public opinion in the Arab States is concerned, to explain that the cale occurred owing to a technical innove tence and is not an expression of the policy of Hall. Government.

It does not seem to us that the damage done by this transaction can be repaired short of physical recovery of

the /

Thomas Lloyd, K.C.M.G.

686

the palmes. I therefore hope you will agree to send a telegram to the High Commissioner saking him to examine urgently the possibility of recovering them, and if he thinks this impossible to make alternative proposals. I enclose a draft indicating the lines on which we should like you to approach the High commissioner.

(Signal) O. G. Sangen

-C 371 / 68646

38 E 1050 PALESTINE Registry \$10, -t/648/31 TELEGRAM, FROM
MY HOUS FA. ROSA OF Burut No.60. Dated Received 21 /an in Registry of foundation types 76 Last Paper. (Minutes.) 1044 Vous Pel. isulation, and ne submit References. Tel. W Bunut 143. 5/ 2 (Print.) (How disposed of.) Watheren 80 therman Edb off M/39

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LIC RECORD. OFFICE



En Glair

Cypher.

Copies to:—

Code.

Registry No. E

Secret.

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Open.

BEIRUT.

Telegram.

Draft.

Confidential Repeat to:-Cairo, 177 Bagdad, 129 Jedda, 75 Damascus, 57 Amman, 60 B.M. E.O. / 03 Jerusalem ... Distribution:— Usual Palestine distribution. DIPLOMATIC

SECRET · CONFIDENTIAL Repeated for information to Cairo, Bagdad, . Jedda, Damascus, Amman, B. M. E.O., Jerusalem. Your telegram No. 60 / of the 25th January; sale of aircraft to a Jewish Company). It is a fact that 21 AUSTER aircraft have been sold by the British Stores Disposal Mission in the Middle East to the Aviron# Palestine Aviation Company. In answering questions on this transaction you should point out that all these aircraft were not only unarmed / but also unservicable. Their sale was effected in the open market after notifications to tender had been sent to Arab as well as other purchasing concerns, and the highest tender was accepted. < 3. Although the aircraft were not classified as military material, their sale was not inconsistent with our policy of denying military supplies to either side in Palestine, it is recognised that the transaction will be criticised and steps have now been taken to prevent the transfer of any further aircraft to either Jews or Arabs in Palestine. For your own information, No spares will be supplied for the ## AUSTERS, and no assistance will be given in servicing them.) the Palestine Government are also examining the possibility of withholding flying licenses, for the Austers [bairs only] Please pass on my lit 103 03.

En clair

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Houstoun-Boswall

26 JAN

No. 60 25th January, 1948 D. 12.59 p.m. 25th January, 1948

R. 1.22 p.m. 25th January, 1948

Repeated to Jerusalem

Cairo

Jedda

Amman

Bagdad

Damascus Cairo B.M.E.O.

IMEDIATE

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 60 of 25th January repeated to Jerusalem, Cairo, Jedda, Amman, Bagdad, Damascus and B.M.E.O. Cairo.

Following from Agence France Fresse is reproduced in local newspapers of 25th January.

[Begins]

The London press this morning London, 24th January. discloses that the Jewish Agency have bought 21 two-seater aircraft from R.A.F. surplus. English Ministry of Supplies was informed of this transaction too late to cancel it, Jewish Agency having already taken delivery of the aircraft from the R.A.F. base in Palestine.

If, as I expect, this incredible story has no foundation I hope that it will be denied officially without delay.

Please pass to Jerusalem as Foreign Office only. my telegram No. 15.

Caire only. Please pass to B.M.E.O. as my telegram No. 19.

[Copies sent to Colonial Office for repetition te Jerusalem].

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68646

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OUT PERMISSION OF THE P
RECORD OFFICE, LONDON BLIC BE

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed em]

Cypher/OTP SECRET E. DIPLOMATIC

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO EIRUT

No.72
3rd February, 1948. D. 3.10 a.m. 4th February, 1948.

Repeated to Cairo No.177

Bagdad No.129.

Jedda No.75

Damascus No.57

Amman No.60

B.M.E.O. Cairo No.103

Jerusalem (via Colonial Office)

IMPORTANT SECRET

Addressed to Beirut telegram No.72 of February

3rd. Repeated for information to Cairo, Bagdad, Jedda,
Damascus, Amman, B.M.E.O., Jerusalem.

Your telegram No.60 [of the 25th January; sale of aircraft to a Jewish Company].

It is a fact that 21 AUSTER aircraft have been seld by the British Stores Disposal Mission in the Middle East to the Aviron Palestine Aviation Company.

- 2. In answering questions on this transaction you should point out that all these aircraft were not only unarmed, but also unserviceble. Their sale was effected in the open market after invitations to tender had been sent to Arab as well as other purchasing concerns, and the highest tender was accepted. No spares will be supplied for the AUSTERS, and no assistance will be given in servicing them.
- although the aircraft were not classified as military material, and their sale was not inconsistent with our policy of denying military supplies to either side in Palestine, it is recognised that the transaction will be criticised and steps have now been taken to prevent the transfer of any further aircraft to either Jews or Arabs in Palestine. For your own information the Palestine Government are examining the possibility of withholding flying licenses for the AUSTERS.

[Cairo only]. Please pass as my telegram No.10303.

FO 371 / 68646 RECORD

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1948

PALESTINE

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Telegrads: Airprod, London.

EL. Extn. 3317

Our Ref. 8/Imp & Exp/371

Your Ref.

371

MILLBANK, 43

27 January, 1948.

MINISTRY OF SUPPLY,

Dear Beeley,

941/14/ 31 14

With reference to my letter of the 19th January regarding the export of aircraft to Palestine, I enclose a copy of a letter of the 23rd January from Shackleton & Co.

I should be glad to have your advice on the nature of the reply to be sent.

I am giving this letter the same circulation as my letter of the 19th January.

Yours sincerely,

Margnes

H. Beeley, Esq., C.B.E.,

Eastern Department,

Foreign Office,

S.W.1.

UBLIC RECORD OFFICE

O

371 / 68646

44

WSS.2907 Ex.43/46/air 3(b). W.S. SHACKLETON LITD.,
175, Piccadilly,
London, W.1.

23rd January, 1948

For the attention of Mr. E. Haynes.

Millbank, London, S.W.1.

Dear Sirs,

re EXPORT OF AIRCRAFT TO PALESTINE.

We thank you in acknowledging receipt of your letter of the 16th instant and note with extreme surprise and regret that you are not prepared to grant Export Licences in respect of the considerable number of Aircraft, Engines and Spare Parts which we have bought for export to Palestine.

We are unaware that any official embargo exists on such exports and we were under the impression that such orders for civil aircraft, etc., would be welcomed by your Ministry and the Board of Trade. Our representatives, who had been in daily touch with these Ministries since January 8th, were given verbal assurances that these Export Licences would be available and dates were indicated - "two or three days ahead", "in twenty four hours", "by tomorrow", "this afternoon" and so forth.

It seems to us obvious that this unfortunate decision must have been made as a result of the present tension in Palectine and that such decision was influenced by the Colonial Office or the Forei n Office. Unfortunately we have been given no reason for this decision and it is possible that the officials who made it were unaware of all the facts, since we have not been given an opportunity to state them nor did they perhaps know of the implications of the present case.

We therefore propose to go over some of the main and relevant facts involved:-

- (1) The aircraft concerned, D.H. TIGER MOUNS, Avro AUSONS, Percival PROCTOR and a D.H. RAPIDE, are essentially obsolete wooden aircraft of pre-war design and of low performance. They are to be used for training purposes in Palestine and they cannot by any stretch of imagination be considered as anything except civil aircraft.
- (2) F/Lt. H.G. Tursz-Fredkens is the accredited representative of the Jewish Agency and has been instructed to purchase aircraft for the State of Palestine wherever they may be available. He is an ex-R.A.F. officer with considerable flying experience during the war. The Jewish Agency has at its disposal credits in American dollars (and therefore available for conversion into any form of currency) for a sum amounting to over \$400,000,000 to be spent over a period of 12 months.
- (3) F/Lt. Fredkens prefers to buy British because of his association with the R.A.F., and also on account of the fact that almost all Jewish pilots, air crews and ground personnel had experience and training with British aircraft and engines.
- (4) F/Lt. Fredkens is authorised to purchase civil aircraft and equipment exceeding £1,000,000 and military aircraft for £3,000,000. If exports of British aircraft are to be stopped, the Jewish Agency are free to acquire Douglas DAKOTAS now in Frankfurt or they can purchase aircraft of any kind in America. They also have been offered fighter aircraft of British manufacture from Jugo-Slavia for immediate delivery. If these machines go to Palestine, presumably they will be replaced in the Jugo-Slavia Air Force by Russian aeroplanes.

- (5) The British authorities in Palestine have recently released 21 British built AUSTER aircraft lying in Palestine. This makes a paradoxical position, in that the Auster Company in this country would presumably not be permitted to export new AUSTER aircraft to Palestine although the same type of aircraft are available in that country from British Government sources on the spot.
- (6) A complete programme has been drawn up for the operation of Flying Schools, Civil Airlines and an Air Force in Palestine. If British aircraft are not adopted at the beginning of the new Jewish State, it seems highly probable to us that American or other aircraft will be standardised perhaps for a considerable period in the future.
- (7) No embargo on the export of British aircraft will stop the entry of aircraft into Palestine. F/Lt. Fredkens, is in a position to buy machines now in Africa, the Middle East or other parts of the World and have them flown in. The writer has had continuous experience of designing, building, operating and selling aircraft since 1916 and has travelled extensively in the five continents. We are, incidentally, the biggest dealers in used aircraft in Europe and we saw at first hand the effect of so-called embargos on the export of aircraft to Spain during the Civil War, the Paraguay-Bolivia War, Chinese War and elsewhere. We would emphasise, however, that during these Wars although we were in a position to have sold some hundreds of thousands of pounds' worth of aircraft, at no time did we do so nor did we infringe the regulations in any sense, unless the supply of one parachute to a Spanish pilot who called on us in London and paid cash for it could be considered as a breach of such regulations!
- (8) The Palestine authorities had intended that B.O.A.C. would provide advice in the administration of their Airlines. Already we understand their attitude has changed and the contract will or may already have been given to K.L.M. Further, if these planes already bought from us are not allowed to proceed, orders for lorries, ships and so on will be cancelled also.
- (9) F/Lt. Fredkens also arranged for the training of 24 men by Messrs. Straight Aviation Training Ltd. Two men had already arrived here to commence instruction.

 This contract will now be cancelled.
- (10) Finally, it is to be hoped that on consideration of the above points the whole position will be reviewed and Export Licences granted.

We shall be grateful therefore if this letter can be passed to the actual official who made the unfortunate decision given in your letter of the 16th January.

We shall be pleased to arrange for P/Lt. Fredkens to visit you accompanied by a representative from this firm at any time you wish and to give any further information you may require.

Yours faithfully,

For and on behalf of W.S. SHACKLETON LID.

(Sga).

Registry	
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DESPATONET	February.
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Clease refer to your letter no. and Exp./371 g ch 27 d enclosing a copy of a letter chleton and be on the refusal plication to export acrestance a will now have seen the given of the Minister of Defonce in a bemmons on the 4th to a guistion on the party of to a genish hownery in The Ministers answer reads s follows: Auster aircraft reent & sold to the Avison Palistini Aviation tempany wer not omh demilitarioed høn disgosal, but wer all in an unserviceable

condition. Their sale was consequently

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not inconsistent with the policy of denying wartible material to both thats and gues in Palistine. Since, however, it is possible to adapt civil aiscraft for military use, steps have now been taken to ensure that no British aircraft will pass with Arab or fewish hands in Palistine so long as then is danger of civil war in that country of think it should be sufficient to long this around to the afficient

to bring this answer to the attention of Sharkleton and to.

I am copying the letter W

I am copying the letter W Higham (C.O.), Couldry (B. of T.), Dunnett (MC.A.) Hing lamonement. Fruman (Air Ministry) and Cardo (Admirally).

H-13. 5/2

Kejerence:-

371

/ 6864

7th Pebruary, 1948.

(: 1360/648/31) COMPIDENTIAL

Dear Haynes,

Please refer to your letter No.8/Imp and hmp/591 of the 27th Jamery, enclosing a copy of a letter from the their application to expert certain aircraft to Palestine.

Tou will now have seen the answer given by the Minister of Defence in the House of Commons on the 4th Debrumry to a question on the recent disposal of aircraft to a Jewish Company in Palestine. The Minister's answer reads in part as follows:

Palestine Aviation Company were not only demilitarised before disposal, but were all in an unserviceable condition. Their sale was consequently not inconsistent with the policy of denying warlike material to both Arabs and Jews in Palestine. Since, however, it is possible to adapt civil aircraft for military use, steps have now been taken to ensure that no British sireraft will pass into area or Jewish hands in Palestine so long as there is danger of civil wer in that country".

I think it should be sufficient to bring this answer to the attention of shackleton and company.

I am copying this letter to Highma (colonial office), couldry (Board of Trade), Lunnett (Ministry of Civil aviation), Freeman (wir Ministry) and Cardo (admiralty).

Your sincerch

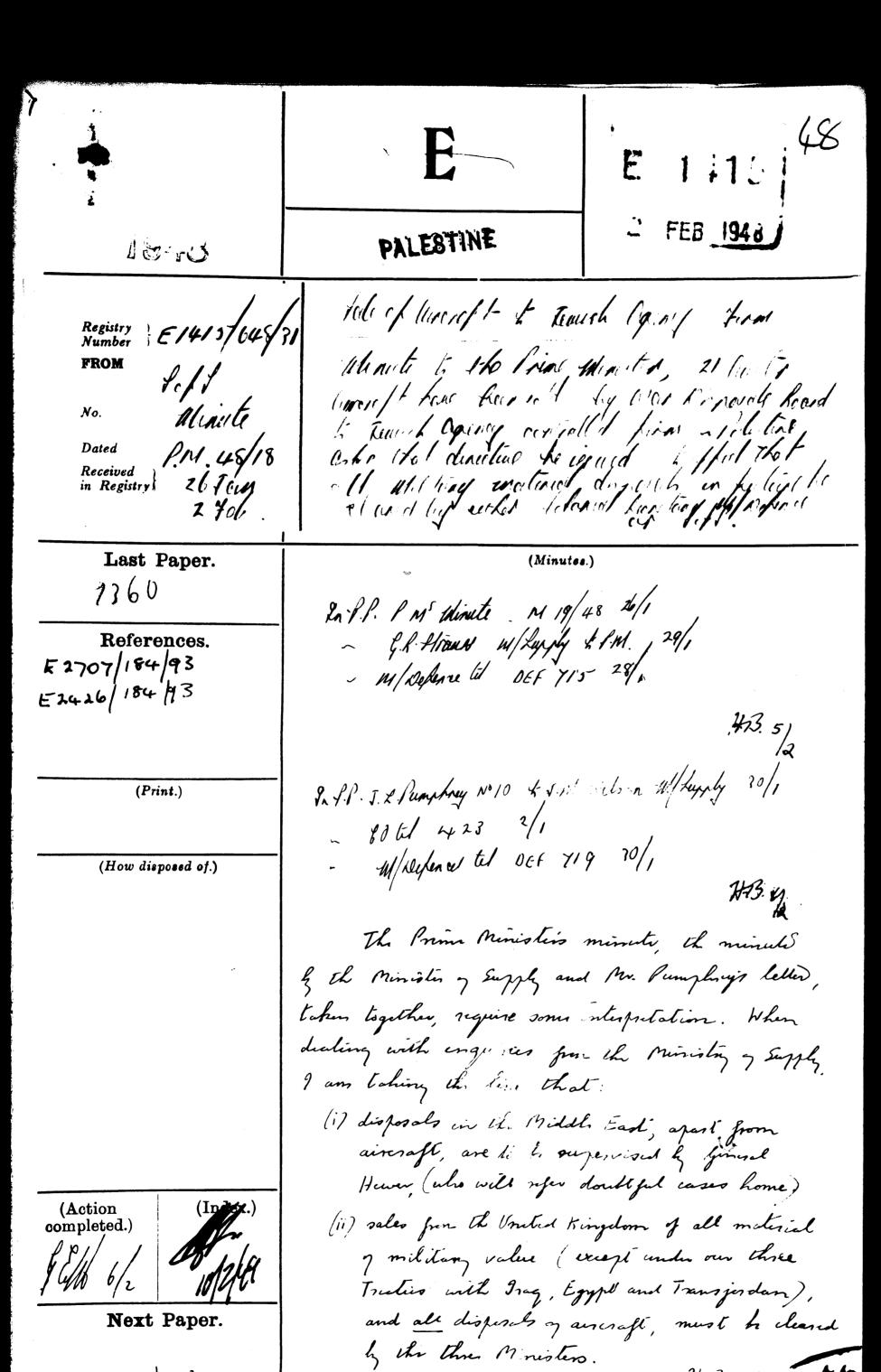
Min. Booley

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I the at

E. Haynes, Seq., Ministry of Supply.



H-Beeley "/2 "

Motivish of military value he has liftened by an inter departmental committee as items inches in Schede 1) B of the Cutable of Edjerts Dade. If experience shows 17 B to contain too with a range of articles the definition will lane to be revised.

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host to applied place my E. 1044/648/31

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Mr. Beeley.

Auster Aircraft for Palestine.

The Private Secretary at No. 10 telephoned to me this morning about the Foreign Secretary's minute of the 26th January. After speaking to you I tried to get No. 10 to incorporate in the Prime Minister's minute to the Minister of Supply the phrases you suggested, but unfortunately the minute had already been despatched last night. No. 10 feel that the Secretary of State's minute, which implied that the Auster Aircraft were covered by the policy directive that arms and warlike materials should be withheld from Jews and Arabs in Palestine, was rather misleading to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister's minute to the Minister of Supply was based on the Secretary of State's minute, and No. 10 feel that it invites a rather tart reply. They would be glad if we could send a further minute to the Prime Minister explaining that demilitarised aircraft appear to have been overlooked in the general embargo on the disposal of warlike, stores in Palestine, and suggesting that this could be remedied. If we do not do something of this kind, they are afraid that there may be an unnecessarily protracted correspondence between the Prime Minister and the Minister of Supply before anything is done. No cornel of

augher authors with the thiristy of Supply who are not apparately, as they supposed, to theme had 27th January, 1948.

We were not aware, when the 5/5:
minute was drafted, that there aircraft were
not wrend of the policy direction. This was
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COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITH-OUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

Musthelm of thish the wo should proceed now on the lines of the attacked draft, which of have done in the form of a letter from the Private Sendary. (Mr. Hermiter may ful that some other charmed weeks to better).

HBuly 221

I hardly think that anything is become at now. The thin. of Impoply have replied to the P. M's wint and do not seen that taken unbrage.

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Reference:-

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IGHT PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TO BE
DUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC
D OFFICE, LONDON

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1. January, 1948.

Registry

Top Secret. Secret.

Confidential.

No.

Private Secretary, No. 10.

H.B.

From:

MARGIN

THIS

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WRITTEN

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Mr. Henniker.

Copies to: Private Secretaries, Colonial Office, Ministry of

Defence, Ministry of Supply.

HBerly 27/

Mr. Bevin's attention has been drawn to the fact that his minute to the Prime Minister No. 48/18 of the 26th January, on the subject of the recent sale of aircraft to a Jewish company in Palestine, might be understood to imply a criticism of the Ministry of Supply Disposals Mission in the Middle East.

Mr. Bevin has instructed me to assure you that this was not his intention. He realises that the Disposals Mission deals with material which is by definition not warlike, and which if it had at one time been of a warlike character would have been demilitarised before it passed into their hands. The aircraft in question were consequently not covered by the decision that all warlike supplies should be withdrawn from both Arabs and Jews in Palestine. The paintthat Mr. Bevin wished to make in his minute was that the sale of these aircraft was nevertheless indistinguishable in its effects from the sale of warlike material within the accepted definition of the words, and that the incident showed that this definition was not wide enough for the purpose which H.W.G. have in mind. It is clearly necessary, in Mr. Beyin's opinion, to extend the strict supervision which these exercise during the present critical period over sales of warlike stores to sales of all material of military value.

I am sending copies of this letter to:

COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH - NO REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICAL OUT PERMISSION OF THE PURPECORD OFFICE, LONDON

T TO BE

PALESTINE

A Draft Minute from the Secretary of State to the Prime Minister

Rumours appeared in the British Press at the beginning of this week to the effect that the War Disposals Board in the Middle East had sold twenty-one Auster Aircraft (these are two-seater reconnaissance planes) to a Company controlled by the Jewish Agency for Palestine. My Department at once requested the Ministry of Supply to issue instructions that all action on sales of aircraft should be suspended and a report submitted. The Ministry of Supply took this action, but have not yet received any official information from the Middle East.

It is now reported, in the Daily Herald and Daily Telegraph of this morning, that the Ministry of Supply telegram arrived too late and that the aircraft have already been delivered and taken to Tel-Aviv.

This sale if it is true that it has been completed is entirely contrary to the policy of His Majesty's Government, which is to withhold supplies of arms and all warlike material from both Arabs and Jews in It would give rise to serious resentment Palestine. against us in Arab countries, and will make it more difficult for me to dissuade the Arab Governments from taking precipitate action in Palestine.

In order that similar incidents may be avoided in the future, I hope you will feel able to issue a directive to the effect that all transactions involving the disposal of material of military value in er to the Middle East must in future be cleared personally by the Minister of Defence, the Secretary of State for the Colonies and myself (or in my absence you).

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I am sending copies of this minute to the Minister of Defence, the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Minister of Supply.

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taking precipitate action in Palestine.

3. In order that similar insidents may be avoided in the future, I hope you will feel able to issue a directive to the effect that all transactions involving the disposal of material of military value for use in the Middle East must in future be cleared personally by the Minister of Defence, the Secretary of State for the Colonies and myself (or in my absence you).

4. I am sending copies of this mimute to the Minister of Defence, the Secretary of state for the Colonies and the Minister of Supply.

26th January, 1948.

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IN MERTO

P.N./48/18.

SECRETARY OF STATE'S FILE

PRINE MINISTER.

Rumours appeared in the British press at the beginning of last week to the effect that the far Disposals Board in the Middle East had sold twenty-one Auster Aircraft (these are two-scater reconnaissance planes) to a Company controlled by the Jewish Agency for Palestine. My Department at once requested the Ministry of Supply to issue instructions that all action on sales of sireraft should be suspended, and a report submitted. The Ministry of Supply took this action, but their telegram arrived too late, and they now learn that the aircraft have been delivered.

2. This sale is entirely contrary to the policy of His Majesty's Government, which is to withhold supplies of arms and all warlike material from both Arabs and Jews in Falestine. It will give rise to serious resentment against us in Arab countries, and will make it more difficult for me to dissuade the Arab Governments from

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28th Jamery, 1948

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PRIME NUMBER'S
PRIME NUMBER'S

INDEXED

BERIAL No. M 19/48.

MINISTER OF SUPPLY

My attention has been drawn to the recent sale of twenty-one Auster aircraft to a Company controlled by the Jewish Agency for Palestine. This sale was contrary to the present policy of His Majesty's Government, which is to withhold supplies of arms and all war-like material from both arabs and Jews in Palestine.

In order that similar incidents may be avoided in the future, all transactions involving the disposal of material of military value for use in the Middle East should be cleared personally with the Foreign Secretary (or in his absence myself), the Minister of Defence and the Colonial Secretary.

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PRIME MINISTER.

Thank you for your minute of 26th January about the recent sale of 21 Auster Mircraft to a company controlled by the Jewish Agency for Palestine.

This sale was negotiated by the Ministry of Supply's Middle East Disposal Organisation based on Cairo which is responsible for the disposal of surplus stores in Palestine. The Services de-militarize all arms before handing them over to this organisation for disposal, so the disposal by sale of weapons for war does not arise.

The Auster circraft in Palestine, after being offered to buyers within and without Palestine, were sold to the highest bidder. Sir A. Cunningham has recorded the opinion that there need be no undesirable reaction if it is made known that Arabs had an equal chance of buying. The sale by competitive tender of unarmed light aircraft had not previously been regarded as objectionable or contrary to Government policy.

Instructions have now been issued to ensure that no further sales of aircraft take place in the Middle Mast, and if further surpluses are reported the procedure laid down in your minute will be followed.

In addition to 8,000 load-carrying vehicles, the Services estimate that some 150,000 tons of stores in Palestine will be declared for disposal in the next few months. These will consist mainly of engineer stores (119,000 tons), containers (15,000 tons), and ordnance /stores

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stores (4,000 tons) with miscellaneous stores from the R.A.F.

As all these stores were provided for the use of the Services, it follows that they all fall within any literal interpretation of the formula "material of military value". I presume that no such wide interpretation is intended, and that special precautions are only desired for weapons, fighting vehicles and If it were desired to ensure that none of aircraft. the stores passed directly or indirectly into the possession of Jews or Arabs in Palestine, hardly any sales would be possible. Even if offers were considered only from buyers with adcresses outside Palestine, it would be impossible to ensure that the buyers, having acquired the legal property in the goods, did not hand them over or result to persons in Talestine. condition that buyers must remove the stores from Falestine would be likely to fail in the face of transport difficulties alone. It is almost certain, therefore, that a decision to place severe restrictions upon the mariner of sale would be equivalent to a decision that the surplus stores in Falestine should be destroyed.

The difficult circumstances in Palestine discourage hopes of satisfactorily disposing of all the stores to be declared surplus, and of obtaining a large revenue from their sale. If, therefore, the Ministry of Supply is to maintain its selling effort, Palestine itself must be the main outlet, even although external buyers are invited to compete.

S8646 RECORD OFF

GHT PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TO B DUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WIT ERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC D OFFICE, LONDON I enclose a copy of an instruction on this matter which the Ministry of Defence, in consultation with the Foreign Office, have sent to Major General Hewer.

I am sending copies of this minute to the Foreign Secretary, the Minister of Defence, the Colonial Secretary, the First Lord of the Admiralty, the Secretary of State for War and the Secretary of State for War and the Secretary of State for Air.

NE :

Ministry of Supply.

FO 371 / 68646

RIGHT PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC PRO OFFICE, LONDON

INDEXED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, LONDON. FROM:

H.Q. BRITISH TROOPS, PALESTINE.

DEF 715

28th January, 1948.

Following for General Hewer from Secretary, Ministry of Defence.

Ministers are greatly concerned by the news that 21 Austers have been disposed of in Palestine to a company controlled by the Jewish Agency. It is true that the Auster is a small and unarmed 'plane, but the possession of a score of these by one side when the other sice has none may be a major factor in the type of fighting which we anticipate between the Arabs and Jews in Palestine.

- We also realise that all material which is being sold by the British Stores Disposals Mission is in some sense of military value, and that consequently a complete prohibition on sales of stores of military value in Polestine would mean that the Mission could not dispose of anything at all. I line has to be drawn between ordinary stores and special supplies which may effect the military issue and the disposal of which to one side may cause bitter resentment on the other.
 - We do not feel able to define this line more precisely in London, and must leave it to your discretion and that of the Disposals Mission; with which we /understand

686

understand you have already established liaison. For your guidance however, the sale of these aircraft is particularly unfortunate because it is headlined in the world's press, and because it will consequently add greatly to the difficulties of the Foreign Secretary who is trying to dissuade the Arab Covernments from intervening directly in Palestine.

- 4. Please therefore examine the situation in consultation with the Disposals Mission, in order to make sure that no similar incident occurs during the remaining period of our withdrawal from Palestine.
- we are considering separately whether enything can be done to neutralize the effect of the disposal of these aircraft to the Jews. Meanwhile they should be denied all spares and of assistance with servicing.

 Ministry of Supply ask that any categories of material on which a sales embargo is imposed should no longer be declared surplus by the Services in

CIRCULATION

Palestine.

T00 281425Z

Poreign Office.
First Sea Lord.
Message Control War Office.

A.M.O.S.
Chief of Combined Operations Staff.
Chancellor of the Exchequer.
Secretary of State for Colonies.
Minister of Supply.

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TO 371 6 FO 371 68646 RECORD OFFICE, LONDOI

TOP SECRET CYPHER TELEGRAM P. W.

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WARNING This message must be thoroughly paraphrased if its text is to be published or communicated outside British or American Services or Departments. If re-transmitted unparaphrased other than through the Cabinet Office the originator must mark

the message "to be sent in One-Time Pad."

TUU 530 F830 Z 1948 TOD 301940Z

IMMEDIATE

OF DEFENCE, LONDON From : MINISTRY

: H.Q., BRITISH TROUPS, PALESTINE

DEF 719

30th January, 1948

Following for General Hewer.

My telegram No. DEF 715 of 28th January.

Foreign Office wish me to emphasise to you that any doubtful cases should be referred to London for decision. In view of the difficulty of defining the categories of stores the disposal of which may cause political repercussions, this seems the safest procedure.

CIRCULATION

TOO 301830Z

D.C.O.R. Foreign Office First Sea Lord Message Control W.O. A.M.C.S. Chief of Combined Ops Staff Chancellor of Exchequer Secretary of State for Colonies Minister of Supply

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

FO 371 / 68646

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

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Cypher (0.7.P.)

1411- 648 71

- G (4).

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Curmingham)
Bent 2nd February, 1948. 16.45 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 423 Secrete

Addressed High Commissioner Polestings Repeated B.M.E.O. No. 3.

Your telegram No. 190e

Auster siroraft.

Ministers are gravely concerned by cosmille consequences of disposal of these alrevals. In particular, the fact that we have sold to the Jews planes adapted for use in guerilla warfare must seem to the Arabs a marked departure from policy of neutrality and consequently makes it more difficult for the Foreign Secretary to argue in favour of the maintenance of the U.S. embargs on supplies of arms or so held back the Arab Government from open intervention in Palesting.

- the possibility of recovering these aircraft. I em, of course, fully aware that any attempt to requisition, compulsarily acquire or otherwise seize them would be bittorily reseated by the Jews, and you may consider that the risk of embrailing the Security Forces in open conflict with the Hagana is an overwhelming objection to action of this kind. I should, however, be grateful for your early chaervations on the possibility of taking such action. If actual seizure is out of the question I should welcome any proposals for action which would immobilise these aircraft either permanently or until the Mandate has terminated.
- Jo You would. I presume, be able at once to take drastic action against the aircraft should there be evidence that they were being employed for military or quasi-military purposes.

Copies sent to:-

2.18

Foreign Office

Ministry of Supply

Ministry of Civil Aviation

- Sir Orme Sargent.

- Mr. H. Beoley.

- Mr. Edden.

- Mr. E. Raynes.

- Mr. W.J. Orre

Wr. L. J. Dunnett.

- Registry Tels.

En. 62

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P. 63

10, Downing Street, E

30 January, 1948.

The Prime Minister has seen the Minister of Supply's minute of January 29 about the sale of Auster Aircraft to a company controlled by the Jewish Agency for Palestine. He has also seen the copy of a telegram sent by the Ministry of Defence to General Hewer, and notes that a satisfactory arrangement seems to have been reached.

I am sending copies of this letter to Henniker (Foreign Office), Richard Wood (Ministry of Defence), Watson (Colonial Office), Hewertson (Admiralty), Drew (War Office) and Orme (Air Ministry).

ರಂದ. J.L. 1944 . ಸರ್ವ.

J.M. Wilson, Esq., Ministry of Supply.

O 37

/68646

ONE TIME P.D

Desp.3 Feb.48

GS(W)1/9226/5

From : War Office

D.T.O.

Feb.

To : C in C MELF

Info : HQ Brit. Tps. Palestine

SECRETOGGS GS(W)1

Subject Disposal Stocks Dannert Wire on Evacuation Palestine. Ref your 45089 SD1B of 8 Jan 48. We have no objection to local disposal as suggested but in view of Minister of Defence's telegram DEF 715 of 28 Jan to Palestine only for General Mover consider you should consult latter who is responsible for supervising disposal of stores in Palestine in accordance with HAG policy.

IMPORTANT.

Copies to:

DDMD(A) Col GS(W)	Q(AE)2,5 ES1
DER	0rd 1,7(2)
MO1 ,4	MGOF
GS(V)1	MGOF(R).

Message Control

NOT TO BE CALLY WITH-DUBLIC

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL

FROM JEDDA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Trott

D. 10. 30 a.m. 4th February, 1948.

No. 55 3rd February, 1948.

R. 10. 37 a.m. 4th February, 1948.

Repeated to Arab posts

Jerusalem
British Middle East Office Cairo. [] () []

IMPORTANT SECRET

4 FER 1948

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 55 February 3rd repeated to Arab posts, Jerusalem and British Middle East Office Cairo No 1054/626/31

Beirut telegram No. 60 to you.

Official in charge of ministry of Foreign Affairs came to see me late on the evening of February 1st and enquired about this report which he said had come to the notice of the King. He asked whether this meant that we had abandoned our policy of neutrality. As I had not at that time seen Jerusalem telegram No. 207 to Beirut (191 to the Colonial Office) I said I would enquire into the truth or otherwise of the report.

During my interview with Amir Faisal on February 4th I gave him the factual information contained in Jerusalem telegram which clearly could not be concealed. He was obviously perturbed at the occurrance and not at all mollified about the fact that aircraft are not warlike stores.

Cairo please pass British Middle East Office Cairo as my telegram No. 24.

[Copy sent to M.E. Secretariat]

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Cypher/OTP

POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION

164E

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE

(From United Kingdom Delegation to the United Nations)

No. 540

D. 12.10 a.m. 5th February, 1948 R. 6.15 a.m. 5th February, 1948

4th February, 1948

Repeated to Washington

IMPORTANT

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 340 of 4th February repeated to Washington.

Your telegram No. 416 to Washington.

In consultation with B.I.S. we have done what we can to secure publicity for the roply contained in your telegram No. 1417 to Washington. It is only fair to report however that the document was received by many of the press at United Nations headquarters with unconcealed amusement especially last sentence.

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E 1660 1948 FEB 1948) PALESTINE Expart Licentes for arresoft for Political £1660/648/31 Enclaser ropy of letter f 19 sun from
Rutch awater Review who work to apply
for export houses for tea Hely acrossess FROM E. Haynu for helitide listo loma coli Last Paper. (Minutes.) 200 W M. 2 Supply 1648 References. (Print.) (How disposed of.) Fremas. Pardo (Action completed.) (Index.)

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Next Paper.

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371 / 68646 | NECORE

KBHH/KD.

HRITISH AVIATION BUREAU, 15, Craven Street, Strand, W.C.2.

29th January, 1948.

Ministry of Supply, Aircraft Section, Thames House, Millbank, S.W.1.

Dear Sirs,

Attention Mr. Dickson.

We herewith wish to apply for an Export Licence to export ten Miles Aerocans - civil freight aircraft, from this country for our clients the General Council for Jewish Aviation in Palestine (The Aviron Company).

We have been promised a delivery date from Miles Aircraft Ltd., of eight weeks. Therefore if you would be kind enough to expedite this Export Licence we would esteem it a favour.

As you are probably aware the Aerovan is purely a small civil twin engined freighter with a payload of some 1,500 lbs. which the above Company wish to purchase for the movement of freight from place to place in Palestine.

Yours faithfully, BRITISH AVIATION BUREAU.

(Sgd) E.B.H. HALL. Managing Director.

OFFI CE

FO 371 / 68646

OKT FILE 10 Feb.

Please refer to your letter no. 8/9mp and Exp/3787 Air 3 (6) of the 3rd February, inclusing a copy of an application for the British Aviation Bureau for expert hiences to expert certain aircraft W Palestine.

As I suggested in my letter no. E1360/648/31 g tel y. it seems sufficient to answer this and similar enquiries, until the danger or the reality of civil war in Palestine has persed, by quoting the nyl given to Sie Joselyn Guess in the House of bommons of the Minister of Defence on the 4th February, in the course of which the Minister of Orfence said that no British aircraft would

No. E 1660/648/31

Draft. My Hagner

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fewrol hands in Palestine.

I am copying this letter to

Higham ((.o.), (ouldry (B.O.T.),

Dunnett (M. Freeman (Air

Ministry) and Cardo (Admiralty).

HB 9/2

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O 371 / 68646

TELEGRAMS : AIRPROD, LONDON. EPHONE: FRANKLIN 2211.

EL. Extn. 3317

Our Ref. 8/Imp & Exp

Your Ref.

MINISTRY OF SUPPLY,

Dear Beeley.

I enclose a copy of a letter of the 29th January from the British Aviation Bureau from which you will note that this concern wish to apply for export licences for ten Miles Aerovans for Palestine.

The Aerovan is a small freighter or passenger aircraft, powered by two 155 H.P. Blackburn Cirrus Major engines. It can carry approximately one ton of freight or nine passengers and is a purely civil type.

I feel that, if the export of any aircraft to Palestine is to be permitted at the present time, this is one of the types to which no objections should be raised, since it cannot be regarded as a type adaptable for combat or training purposes.

I should be grateful for your comments.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Higham (C.R.O.), Couldry (Board of Trade), Dunnett (M.V.A.), Wing Commander Freeman (Air Ministry) and Cardo (Admiralty).

Yours sincerely.

H. Beeley, Esq., C.B.E., Eastern Department, Foreign Office, London, S.W.1.

OFFICE

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FO 371 / 68646

PUREION OPPICE, 73

loth February, 1948.

(£ 1660/648/31)

COMPIDENTIAL

Was Hayner

Please refer to your letter No. &/Imp and Exp/378/Air 3(b) of the 3rd Pebruary, enclosing a copy of an application from the British Aviation Bureau for licenses to export certain aircraft to Paleatine.

As I suggested in my letter No. 2 1360/648/81 of the 7th Pebruary, it seems sufficient to ensuer this and similar enquiries, until the danger or the reality of civil war in Palestine has passed, by quoting the reply given to dir Joselyn Lucas in the House of Commons on the 4th February, in the course of which the Ministry of Lefence said that no British sircraft would be allowed to pass into areb or Jewish hands in Palestine.

lam copying this letter to sighem (colonial ffice), souldry (Board of Trade), summett (Ministry of Svill Vistion), Freeman (ir Ministry) and Cardo (admiralty).

of wood Bith,

E. Haynes, Rad., Ministry of Lupply.

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FROM

Dated

Received in Registry FEB 1948

Disparel of aurorapt. a M.K. N.Q. RAF NED/NE als QX 3835 & 4 4th and AIX 275 of tol . Y. chaling with Disposal of an RAF accept a the ME.

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References.

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(How disposed of.)

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Bush House

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Green drept.

(Action completed.)

(Minutes.)

See separate minutes. now submit action in the shape of where Am and tel. to washn.

> 121. Bins Feb. 11 (BEITH)

9-1 P. 40 White W' Bail 6/2 . M.W. Low 0/M. F-39/.5.6. to M' hot Herkens 1/2

D Fch. 14

[26513 F.O.P.

This may easily turn out to be quite as tricky a case as that of the Austers. Unfortunately, the attached telegram from the R. A. F. Headquarters in the Middle East is not at all clear. I have asked Mr. Low to send a most immediate telegram inquiring:-

- How many aircraft are involved,
- There they are,
- Whether they are serviceable,
- How far the act of transfer to the United States authorities has gone.

Mr. Low recognised that whatever might be the legal ownership of the aircraft, we bear the responsibility in local opinion for their disposal if they are seen being taken away from R. A. F. airfields like the Austers. I suggested that we might have to try and arrange to deliver them elsewhere to the Americans and fly them away from Palestine for this purpose. This, however, depends on whether they are serviceable and whether the R. A. F. can spare the pilots to fly them away. I pointed out to Mr. Low that in a matter of this importance it might be necessary for the Cabinet to direct the Air Force to provide the necessary personnel.

I have also asked Mr. Low to instruct Middle East to hold up any action in regard to the transfer or disposal of these aircraft until they receive further instructions, when the matter has been considered here in the light of their further report.

By Buil J.G.S. Beith.

I am not lappy about this. Then would not to much foint in fortidding the R.A.F. and Dogoralo Mission to sell ineraft to Arab a good if British eineraft wen passing sitt quist hunds via the American Field Teguidation fommission. When un have 1th

371 / 68646

MARGIN. **THIS** Z WRITTEN BE 9 NOTHING

de Air Ministry's fuller ment, un should unsite taking the metter up with Washington.

HBecky 4/2

Tes mb

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

371 / 68646

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MARGIN. THIS BE WRITTEN IN 9 NOTHING

CYPHER

WARNING.—This cypher message must first be paraphrased if it is necessary to publish its text or to communicate it to persons outside British or United States Government Services and Departments. Messages marked "One-Time Pad" or "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.

иC

E. 1567

CYPHER

FE6 494882

(Recd Registry Telegrams 6th January, 1948)

From:-

HQ RAF NED/ .. E.

To:-

Air Ministry, London.

QX.3835 /4th February.

IMPORTANT.

Exclusive for a.m.S.C. From aOA.

Your OX.1489 28th January.

Disposal of Auster Aircraft was effected in accordance with instructions received in Air Ministry, London. Signal 005260 20th May, 1947 (.) Details of aircraft, together with location and condition were furnished to British stores disposal mission in this Headquarters MED/M.E. /S76581/8/E4A 9th July, 47 (.) Air Ministry was reminded in this Headquarters signal QX.3946 dated 8th October 47 that all Auster V hell in Egypt and Levant had been submitted to British stores disposal mission for sale.

- 2. No action was taken by this Headquarters regarding limitation of conditions of sale, as it was assumed that this was entirely the responsibility of the Ministry of Supply.
- There are now eleven Lodesters and fifteen
 Dakota IV aircraft on offer for surrender to the U.S. Foreign Liquidation
 Commissioner Caire, in accordance with air Ministry Instructions (.)
 British embassy are apprehensive as to possible purchasers of these
 aircraft and are approaching Foreign Office. Is any action required to
 restrict the disposal of these aircraft or is this purely a matter of
 American Concern.

 Time of origin, 040621Z. Copies to :AMSO (Action 2 copies)

Recirculated Registry Telegrams 9th February, 1948. Authority PS/A.M.S.O.

Copies to:
..M.S.O.(Action)(2 copies)

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Foreign Office (Er Scott Stephens). Colonial Office (Er. Fermey).

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SECRET



WARNING.—This cypher message must first be paraphrased if it is necessary to publish its text or to communicate it to persons outside British Government Services and Departments. Messages marked One-Time Pad: "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.

PH.

KX.10870.

(Recd. Regy. Tels. 7th February 1948)

FRCM:- HQ. MED.M.E.

TO: - AIR MINISTRY, LONDON.

IMPCRIANT.

SECRET.

AIX.275.

February 7th.

Your AX.1631 4 Feb.

1.

(A) 11 Lodestars(?) and 15 Dakotas

(B) Aircraft in Maintenance Units in Egypt
(C) Aircraft can easily be made serviceable to fly away

(D) Aircraft have been offered to Americans under Lease Lend agreement for disposal of equipment, and they have indicated that they wish to dispose of these aircraft themselves. Nothing known here about Dollar expenditure involved in re-possessing, but in this connection suggest you consult AMSO. See also this H.Q. Signal Q.3835 of 4 Feb. exclusive for AMSO.

from A.O.A.

2. Once aircraft are sold, RAF. have no further control over them and delaying tactics would be difficult.

COPIES TO:-

Time of origin 670930Z.

S.6. (Action) (2 copies); P.S. to S. of S.; P.S. to A.M.S.(.; P.S. to V.C.A.S.; A.C.A.S. (P) (2 copies); D. Pol. (AS) (2 copies); D.D.O. (A); S.9 (Supply); Foreign Office (Mr. Scott Stephens); Colonial Office (Mr. Formoy).

Note.—In the interests of economy, both sides of this sheet should be used.

To reference:-

68646

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 $\Delta_{\mathbf{i}}$

SIGNAL

From: W.f., D.A.W., MD.F.H.

To: Air Ministry, London.

Repeated: H.B.M. Embassy, Cairo.

INTEDIATE

SECTION

AIY.269

Tebruary 4th, 1948.

To A.C.A.S. (I) from S.A.S.O.

American Tield Liquidation Commissioner selling to Jews or Arabs surplus lease-lend aircraft offered to him by P.A.T. Lodestar and Dakota aircraft in particular. Perhaps authorised by "ashington. Sale imminent but could be prevented by re-possession by M.A.T. Pelicy not clear here in view of argument on embargo. Grateful your advice on policy this matter.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | FO | 371 | 68646

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....

No. ABBRY 3411. EXT. 5219

AIR MINISTRY,

F.39/S.6.

KING CHARLES STREET,

WHITEHALL, S.W.1.

SHCRET

II MED LATE

5th Webrusny, 1948.

Minima.

Dear Stephons,

I enclose a copy of a telegram dated the 4th Debruary which we have received from M.C., D.A.F., IIII.I.D. about the necesibility of the disposal of surplus Lend/Lease aircraft by the local American Field Liquidation Commissioner in the Middle East.

In view of the Prime Linister's directive dated 26th January about the Cisposal of material of military value for use in the Middle hast, sou may think it desirable to sugest that action should be taken by lashington to issue instructions to the American Field Liquidation Commissioner not to dispose of these aircraft. It is very possible that the simerest are still located on R.A.T. simples in Pelestine, elthough they may have been disposed of to the American authorities some time "e should be glad to know whother you wish us to take action to ensure that these aircraft are not removed from R.A. airfields for sale to Jews or Arabs. action would be likely to be followed by political repercussions, and you will appreciate therefore that we would not wish to do anything in the matter without the direct authority of the Foreign Secretary.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Formoy at the Colonial Office.

Yours sincerely,

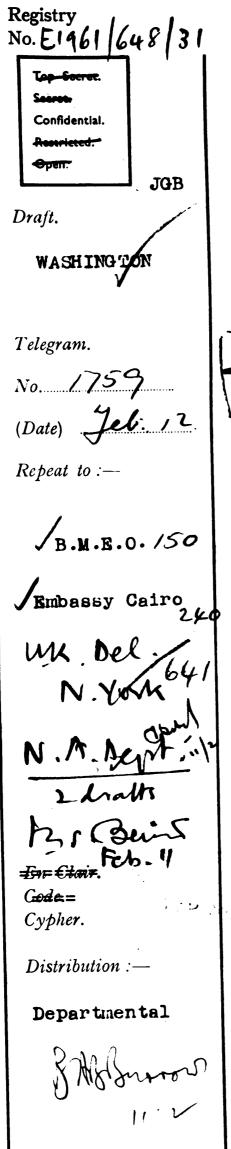
m. l. Lus.

(T.W. LOW)

P. Scott Stephens, Esc., Foreign Office,
Downing Street,
S. W. 1.

Copies to:—

Air Ministry (Mr. W.W. Green)



11th February, 1948.

F.O.,

Despotched

M.

12(9-23-0)

Repeated for information to

B.M.E.O.

Embassy Cairo

UK, bel. N. Volk

Important Confidential

11 Lodestars and 15 Dakotas, at present in British Maintenance Units in Egypt, have been offered to the U.S. Field Liquidation Office under lease-lend agreement for disposal of equipment and the Liquidation Office have intimated that they wish to dispose of these These Aircraft could aircraft themselves. In view of the easily be made serviceable. importance of preventing their sale for use in Palestine, R.A.F. Headquarters Midule East have been instructed to delay their transfer for 14 days repeat 14 days in order that you should be able to give adequate advance notice to the State Department (in case they have not abready got me facts).
2. Please ask the State Department for assurance that these aircraft will not be disposed of for use in Palestine. For your information, it would be virtually impossible for return to us ownership us to prevent their the were even if we were willing to accept the necessary dollar We assume, however, that U.S. expenditure. Govt. will agree to take the necessary precautions/

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precautions in disposing of the aircraft. and not it would be made clear that, after the 14 days' delay has elapsed, the responsibility for their disposal is entirely American.

Copy unt to M.E. Scare farial

12.2.

HING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

O 371 / 68646

Registry No. E 1961 | 648 | 31

Top Secret.

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Confidential.

Restricted.

Open.

JG SB

Draft.

W.W. Green, Air Ministry, Bush House.

13/1

Molennon

SOF FILE

13/18

U.

11th February, 1948.

Dear Green,

We have now seen Middle East

Headquarters' telegram AIX 275 of February 7

about lend-lease Lodestars and Dakotas which are
due to be handed back to the U.S. Field

Liquidation Office in Egypt.

As I explained to you on the telephone, H.M.G. and the U.S. Govt. are in constant touch on the subject of preventing material of military value from entering Palestine. We are very anxious for our part to avoid any repetition of the Auster case and it is of great importance that these more serviceable aircraft should not reach Palestine through any action of ours.

Now that your Ministry have instructed Headquarters Middle East to delay the transfer of these aircraft for 14 days, we shall be able to give the U.S. authorities sufficient advance warning for the responsibility of their disposal to be placed squarely on their shoulders.

I enclose a copy of the telegram we are sending to Washington

mul

12.2

371

/68646

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

15th February, 1948.

(E 1961/648/31)

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Green.

We have now seen Middle East Headquarters' telegram AIX 275 of the 7th February about lend-lease Lodestars and Dakotas which are due to be handed back to the United States Field Liquidation Office in Egypt.

As I explained to you on the telephone, His Majesty's Government and the United States Government are in constant touch on the subject of preventing material of military value from entering Palestine. are very anxious for our part to avoid any repetition of the Auster case and it is of great importance that these more serviceable aircraft should not reach Palestine through any action of ours.

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Hours sincerely

W.W. Green, Esq., Air Ministry. 6864

Cypher /OTP E 1961/648/31

Confidential

DEPARTMENTAL

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO WASHINGTON

No. 1759
12th February, 1948
D. 8.40 p.m. 12th February, 1948

Repeated to British Middle East Office No. 150 Cairo No. 240 United Kingdom Delegation New York No. 641

III ORTANT

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Washington telegram No. 1759 of 12th February, repeated for information to British Middle East Office, Cairo (Embassy) and United Kingdom Delegation New York.

Il Lodestars and 15 Dakots, at present in British Maintenance Units in Egypt, have been offered to the United States Field Liquidation Office under lease-lend agreement for disposal of equipment and the Liquidation Office have intimated that they wish to dispose of these aircraft themselves. Aircraft could easily be made serviceable. In view of the importance of preventing their sale for Arab or Jewish military use in Palestine, R.A.F. Headquarters Middle East have been instructed to delay their transfer for 14days (repeat 14 days) in order that you should be able to give adequate advance notice to the State Department (in case they have not already got the facts).

2. Please ask the State Department for assurance that these aircraft will not be disposed of for use in Palestine. For your information, it would be virtually impossible for us to prevent their return to United States ownership even if we were willing to accept the necessary dollar expenditure. We assume, however, that United States Government will agree to take the necessary precautions in disposing of the aircraft. If not it would have to be made clear that, after the 14 days' delay has elapsed, the responsibility for their disposal is entirely American.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

PPP

68646

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Military and the second of the second and the secon	PALESTINE	16 FEB 1948
Registry Number E2/74 14 11 TRIMGRAM FROM No. Market No. Market	lanter leveraght sald he lifes to all the height tong the second told official the thirt oly and found by labour the character of four ty labour were for their repair.	Deinad Fam
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2536	30471 F.O.P	

FO 371 / 68646 PUBLIC RECORD. OFFICE Reference:-

E 85

Cypher/OTP

DIPLOMATIC.

FROM JEDDA TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Trott. No. 72. D. 5.00 p.m. 14th February, 1948. R. 6.35 p.m. 14th February, 1948. 14th February 1948.

Repeated to Jerusalem and Saving to Beirut, Damascus, Cairob Brittsh Waddle East Office Cairo, Amman & Bagdad.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 72 of February 14th, repeated for information to Jerusalem and Saving to Beirut, Damascus, Cairo, British Middle East Office Cairo, Amman and Bagdad.

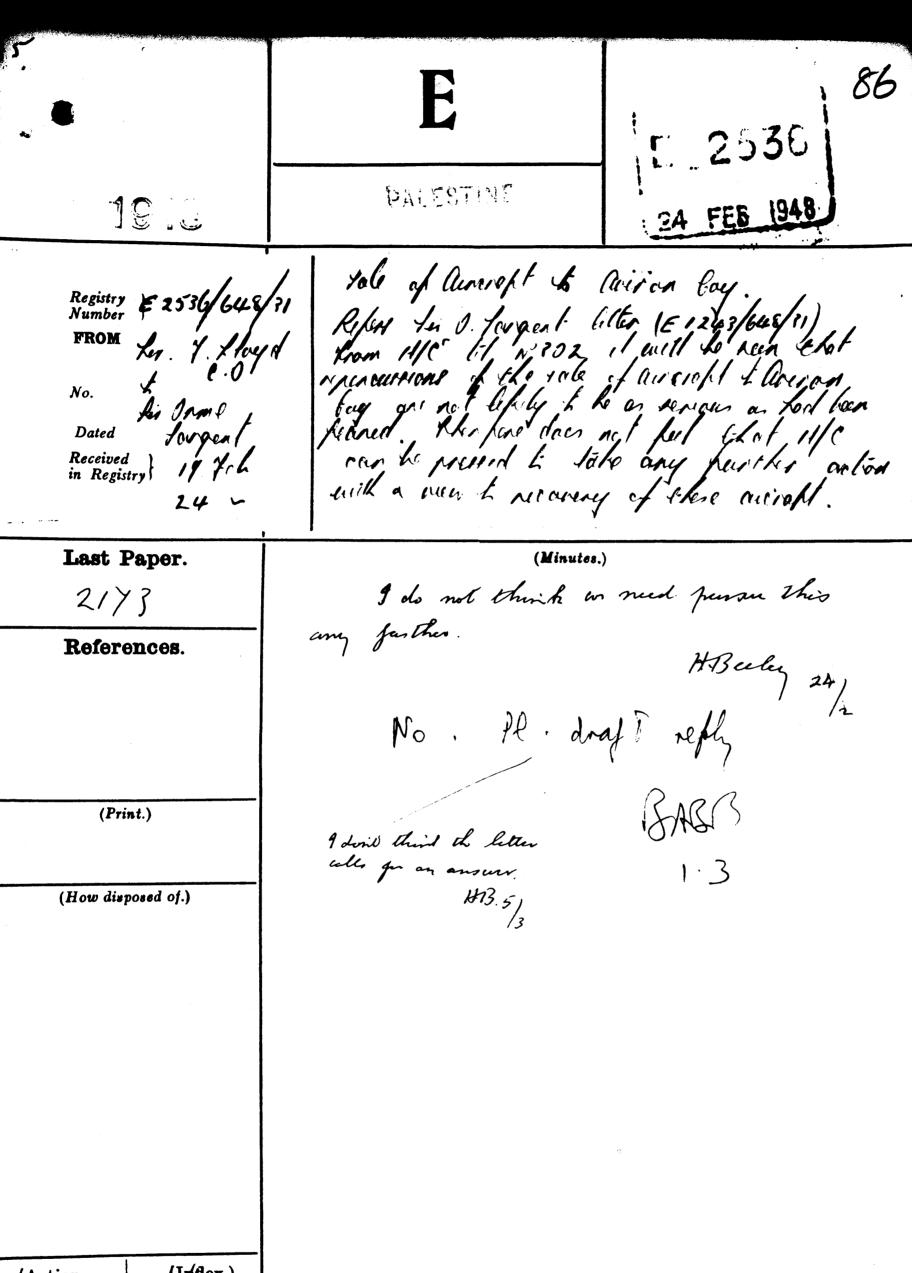
Your telegram No. 72 to Beirut: Auster aircraft.

In conversation on February 9th with official temperarily in charge of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I referred to these aircraft and informed him that they were unserviceable and that the Government of Palestine were providing ne facilities for their repair.

68646

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Next Paper.

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[26513 F.O.P.



Colonial Office, Church House,

GREAT SMITH STREET, S.W.1.

19th February, 1948.

Dear January 2 350

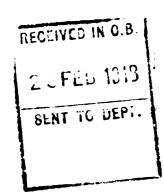
You wrote to me on the 28th of January about the recent are of 1846a reraft to a Jewish Company in Palestine.

- 2. You will have seen from the High Commissioner's telegram No.302 in reply to our telegram No.423 (further copies of which are enclosed) that the repercussions of that sale upon the security situation in Palestine are not likely to be as serious as had been feared.
- 3. You will see that the High Commissioner considers that any attempt, short of the use of force, to recover them would be unlikely to be successful, and that the General Officer Commanding is in fact unwilling to contemplate the use of force though, if definite evidence should be forthcoming that the aircraft are being employed for military or quasi-military purposes the General Officer Commanding would be prepared to take all necessary action.
- 4. While I fully appreciate your apprehensions about the probable effect of this sale in the United States and in the Arab countries I do not feel that we can press the High Commissioner further to take action to recover these aircraft.
 - 5. I hope that the statement recently made by

Sir (rme Sargent, KCB., KCMG.

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by the Minister of Defence that no further sales of aircraft are to be permitted will go far to reassure the Arab countries that no deviation from His Majesty's Government's policy in Palestine is implied or contemplated.

So far as we are aware, there have been no further repercussions and, subject to your views, we propose now to let the matter rest.

Yours owened,
T.1. t. Lord

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

FO 371 / 68646

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

75998/1/48 Secret, Cypher (0.T.F.)

Bent and February, 1948. 16,45 hre.

THMEDIAME

Ho. 423 Secret.

Addressed High Commissioner Palestine, Repeated E. M. E. O. No. J.

Your telegram No. 190.

Auster siroratt.

Ministers are gravely concerned by possible consequences of disposal of these aircraft. In particular the fact that we have sold to the Jews planes adapted for the in gravilla weefare must seem to the Araba a marked deporture from policy of neutrality and consequently makes it more difficult for the Foreign Secretary to argue in favour of the maintenance of the U.S. embargo on supplies intervention in Palestine.

Thave, therefore, been asked to examine urgently the possibility of recovering these aircraft. I am, of course, fully aware that any attempt to requisition, compulsorily sequire or otherwise seize them would be bitterly resented by the Jews, and you may consider that the risk of embroiling the Security Forces in open conflict with the Hagana is an overwhelming objection to action of this kind. I should, however, be grateful for your early observations on the possibility of taking such action. If actual scizure is out of the question I should welcome any proposals for action which would immebilise these aircraft either permanently or until the Mandate has terminated.

Jo you would, I presume, be able at once to take drastic action against the aircraft should there be evidence that they were being employed for military or quasi-military purposes.

Copies sent to:-

Foreign office

.e

Ministry of Supply

Ministry of Civil Aviation

- Sir Orme Sargent.

- Mr. H. Beeley.

= Mr. Edden.

- Mr. E. Haynes.

m Mr. W.J. Orro

- Mr. L.J. Dunnott.

- Registry Tols.

1/68646

INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher(O.T.P.)

PROH PALESTINE (Gon. 817 A. Cumningham)

D. 6th February, 1948.

Re 6th " " 13.05 hrs.

IMPORTABLY

No. 302 Secret.

Addressed to S. of S. Repeated to B.M.R.C. No. 23.

Your telegram No. 423 repeated to B.M.E.O. No. 3. Auster Aircraft.

The 20 Austers in question were purchased dismentled and are now in Tel Aviv. One Oxford, unserviceable, is still at Aquir. It is improbable that any attempt, short of use of force, to recover them would be successful, and I do not consider that use of force in this case would be either advisable or justified. The G.O.C. is in fact unwilling to contemplate such a course.

- I sm informed that of 20 Austers authorised, 10 at most might be made serviceable (3 days ago none were serviceable). As regards the statement that planes are "adapted for use in guerilla warfare" I would only say that they are articles which can be purchased by any civilian of the open market, and are no more adapted for guerilla warfare than is, say, an Austin seven or a bicycle. The local air authorities consider that it is unlikely that they could be used effectively for offensive purposes.
- 3. The Director of Civil Aviation is asking the Jewish Agency to store these aircraft in hangers at Lydds Airport until termination of Mandate (the Agency has already given him a verbal undertaking that machines shall not be assembled for the time being).
- the The eigeraft cannot legally fly unless they obtain certificates of airworthiness which are given by Air Registration Board in Cairo or the advice of Director of Civil Aviation and will be withheld.
- 5. The machines were purchased by Aviron Ltd. which is about to be absorbed by Palestine Airways; the latter concern is controlled by Rutenberg who, in conversation with Director of Civil Aviation, has expressed himself as strongly opposed to employment of aircraft for any unauthorised purpose.
- 6. If, in the face of all these obstacles, Agency should decide to use aircraft illegitimately, they could not be used from Lydda, Haifa or Tel Aviv; and it is unlikely that they could be used from any other airfield, but could

FO 371 / 68646

of course operate from open country. However, it is probable than they would very soon be detected, in which cose adequate stops would at once be taken.

- Ver Penalty, should there be any evidence that thene alterials were being engloyed for military or genetemal chang purposes, too 2 0.0, would be prepared to take all necessions setula. The reverlag of such acciou would naturally depend on a not appeared very doing, and of toling guidance of seasones in criming priot to directions given to the
- 8. For your independant trails and that degree of press comments as sale of these absende to Jews her not executed and which who enough by recent delivery by Britheli from or consultient of srine to cortoin Arec States

Copies sent to:-

Porsign Office 17

Ministry of Supply

Ministry of Civil Aviation - Mr. L.J. Dunnett, - Registry Tels.

- Sir Orce Saggent.

- Mr. H. Beeloy.

- Mr. Reken.

" Mr. E. Hagnes,

- Mr. W.J. Orr.

- Registry Tels.

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1948

25 FEE 1948

Registry F263 7/648/3/
FROM

My Luggly

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References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

I here agreed with M Higham
Co that this had better be
looked at again in the
hight of the eventual decision
on the Skyways project

Bu. Mar 1st General By M. 28 Feb. 26 Bu. Mel. 10 Johnson 1st

(Action (Index.)
completed.)

Next Paper.

26513 F.O.P.

1/68646

3317

8/I and R/371

2 February 1948.

Dear Mr. Beard,

I am writing in confirmation of our recent telephone conversation concerning your export licence application for aircraft destined for Palestine.

In this connection I have to draw your attention to a statement made in the House of Commons by the Minister of Defence on the 4th February. The relevant part reads as follows:

"Since it is possible to adapt civil aircraft for military use, steps have now been taken to ensure that no British aircraft will pass into Arab and Jewish hands in Palestine so long as there is danger of civil war in that country".

You will appreciate that in the circumstances your application cannot be granted at the present time.

Yours sincerely,

J.H.C.Beard Esq., W.O.Shackleton Ltd., 175 Piccadilly, London, W. 1. C 371

/ 6864

Franklin 2211
3317
3604

8/I a 3/371/Air 3(b).

Ofy for - M. Buly (F. 0)
(12
25 FEB 1948 208.

Don't Highen,

I understand from our recent telephone conversation that your Department may propose that the export of siroraft to Pelestine on a loan basis should be permitted.

I am auxious to know what decision is resched on this subject as the ruling will presumebly apply to the sale of aircraft by Shackleton to the latra Trading Company for loss to the Aviron Co. (Palestine). You will see from the attached copy of my letter to Shackleton that I have replied to them according to the terms of Beeley's letter E.136C/648/31 of the 7th February of which you hold a copy and they will probably take steps to drop the matter unless they receive early notice of the medification of the previous decision.

I am copying this letter to Peeley (Foreign Office)

Yours sincerely,

J.D. Highem, Req., Colonial Office, Church House, Gt. Smith Street, London, S.W.1. O 371 / 68646

PALESTINE

1948

Use of Auster aircraft by Jews in Palestine,

Registry Number 超4466/648/31

FROM Parliamentary Question

No.

Majro Tufton Dated Beamish 7th April Received 9th in Registry

Major Tufton Beamish asked Minister of Defence whether he is aware that a number of Auster aircraft have been used by the Jews in Palestine for bombing etc against the Arabs; whether these aircraft were obtained from British sources; and whether owners of these and other ameraft obtained from British sources will be allowed to retain them. Mr. Alexander, Is informed that one aircraft believed to be an Auster, was recently employed by the Jews in operations against the Arabs. The source from which this aircraft was obtained is not at present known, enquiries are being made.

Last Paper

2637

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

Next Paper

(Index

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(Minutes.)

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PARLIAMENTARY Equation.

Auster Aircraft, Palestine

31. Major Tufton Beamish asked the Minister of Defence whether he is aware that a number of Auster aircraft have been used by the Jews in Palestine for bombing, machine-gunning and reconnaissance purposes against the Arabs; whether these aircraft were obtained from British sources; and whether it is his intention to allow these and other aircraft obtained from British sources to be retained by their present owners.

Mr. Alexander: I am informed that one light aircraft, believed to be an Auster, was recently employed by the Jews in operations against the Arabs in Palestine. The source from which this aircraft was obtained is not known at present, but I am having further inquiries made.

Major Beamish: Does the right hon. Gentleman recollect that, as recently as 4th February, he claimed that the sale of these Auster aircraft was not inconsistent with the policy of denying warlike material to both Arabs and Jews, and that he went on to describe these aircraft as non-military stores? May I ask whether these are still his views?

Mr. Alexander: As I have said, I am having inquiries made into this particular aircraft. In this case, it did not enable the Jews to make their operations successful. What I said on 4th February was that these aircraft, which had been demilitarised and all of which were unserviceable, had been sold by open tender, and it was open to either side to buy them. [Interruption.] I gave that information. I am not sure what all the trouble is about. We gave orders that no further aeroplanes should be supplied.

7 APR 1948

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EASTERN

Parliamentary Question

* 43. Major Tufton Beamish,—To ask the Minister of Defence, whether he aware that number of Auster Aircraft have been used by the Jews in Palestine for hombing, machine 48 gunning and reconnaissance purposes against the Arabs; whether these aircraft were obtained from British sources; and whether it is his intention to allow these and other aircraft obtained from British sources to be retained by their present owners.

7 APR 1948

Lewes.

ANSWERED

7 APR 1948

REPLY ATTACHED.

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68646

1.11

Auster Aircraft, Palestine

31. Major Tufton Beamish asked the Minister of Defence whether he is aware that a number of Auster aircraft have been used by the Jews in Palestine for bombing, machine-gunning and reconnaissance purposes against the Arabs; whether these aircraft were obtained from British sources; and whether it is his intention to allow these and other aircraft obtained from British sources to be retained by their present owners.

Mr. Alexander: I am informed that one light aircraft, believed to be an Auster, was recently employed by the Jews in operations against the Arabs in Palestine. The source from which this aircraft was obtained is not known at present, but I am having further inquiries made.

Major Beamish: Does the right hon. Gentleman recollect that, as recently as 4th February, he claimed that the sale of these Auster aircraft was not inconsistent with the policy of denying warlike material to both Arabs and Jews, and that he went on to describe these aircraft as non-military stores? May I ask whether these are still his views?

Mr. Alexander: As I have said, I am having inquiries made into this particular aircraft. In this case, it did not enable the Jews to make their operations successful. What I said on 4th February was that these aircraft, which had been demilitarised and all of which were unserviceable, had been sold by open tender, and it was open to either side to buy them. [Interruption.] I gave that information. I am not sure what all the trouble is about. We gave orders that no further aeroplanes should be supplied.

68646

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3 ATT 1948	
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* 43. Major Tufton Beamish,—To ask the Minister of Defence, whether he is aware that a number of Auster Aircraft have been used by the Jews in Palestine for bombing, machine-gunning and reconnaissance purposes against the Arabs; whether these aircraft were obtained from British sources; and whether it is his intention to allow these and other aircraft obtained from British sources to be retained by their present owners.

7.4.48.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE DRAFT REPLY.

I am informed that one light aircraft believed to be an Auster was recently employed by the Jews in operations against the Arabs in Palestine. The source from which this aircraft was obtained is not known at present, but I am having further enquiries made.

Mr. Beeley for concurrence.

My. Defence informed.

JBLIC RECORD OFFICE

2 3 4 5 6 FO 371 / 68646

question.

Last Paper 4466 References

(Minutes.)

in Registry

(Print)

(Hew disposed of)

(Action completed)

Next Paper

E6791

34967

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Parliamentary Question

*121. Major Tufton Beamish,—To ask the Minister of Defence, whether he has now completed his inquiries regarding the use by the Jews in operations against the Arabs in Palestine of one or more light aircraft; the source from which such aircraft were obtained; and if he will make a statement. [Wednesday 28th April.]

REPLY ATTACHED.

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371 / 68646

CO APR 1913

Aircraft

46. Major Beamish asked the Minister of Defence whether he has now completed his inquiries regarding the use by the Jews in operations against the Arabs in Palestine of one or more light aircraft; the source from which such aircraft were obtained; and if he will make a statement.

The Minister of Defence (Mr. Alexander): It has not been possible to establish the identity or the origin of the aircraft to which I referred in my reply to the hon. and gallant Gentleman's Question on 7th April. As he is no doubt aware, a light aircraft of a type similar to the Auster was shot down by British forces near Kefar Etzion on 12th April.

Major Beamish: Does it follow from the Minister's reply that he agrees that it was a mistake that these Auster aircraft were sold to either faction in Palestine, and is it a mistake that will not be repeated in the future?

Mr. Alexander: I have already told the hon, and gallant Member that an order has gone out that no more planes should be sold, and that has been carried out for the last three months.

2 8 APR 1948

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group. FO
Class. 371
Piece. 686.46

Following document(s) retained in the Department of origin under Section 3 (4) of the Public Records Act, 1958

E 6791/648/31

E 6792

FO 371 / 68646

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

E 6667

1948

T1.

25 MAY 1948

Registry ELSLY 648 31 FROM au Munistry

(comm'd) A. 918.

May 14th

May 25th Dated Received

Permission for Average to land at Ramat David

Synal received from the F.O. states that it is essential that Halton should not land at Ramat David. The acresaft Halton has not at Malta 4 the whereabouts is unknown.

Last Paper

in Registry

6)97

References

(Minutes.)

See within

lie Ministry tel. Nº AP. 2917 --- 18/5

AP 3286 -.. 20/5

" ACX. 1698 - -- 21/5

& may 27

(Print)

(Hew disposed of)

(Action completed)

COX

Next Paper

E6893.

34967

371 / 68646

- NOT TO BE CALLY WITH-PUBLIC

H.

TELEGRAM EN CLAIR.

53604.

1 MAY 1948) (Recd. Regy. Tels.

FROM:- AHQ. MALTA.

TO:-AIR MINISTRY, LONDON.

INFO:- HQ. RAF. MED.M.E., NICCSIA/ATTN. AHQ. (U) ANT - LUQANDEXED

UNCLASSIFIED. IMMEDIATE.

Λ.198. May 14th.

Ref A.M. signal AP.23 May 12. Signal received here from Foreign Office states that essential Halton should not (R) not land at Ramat David today. The aircraft Halton ZSBTA has not (R) landed at Malta whereabouts unknown.

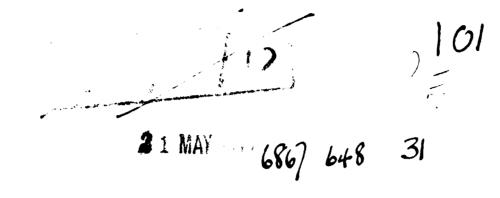
Time of origin 141000Z.

COPIES TO:-

D.D.A.S.T.O. (Action) (2 copies) S.6. D.D. of Pol. S.2. M.C.A. Regy. Tels. 2 copies for A.S.G.1. Colonial Office 3 copies for (Mr. Bigg, Mr. Vile) Foreign Office 2 copies for (Mr. Edden).

AP. 2354 12 May appears to refer.

PUBLIC RECORD.



PH.

TELEGRAM EN CLAIR.

AP-2917.

(Desp. Regy. Tels. 18th May 1948)

FROM: - AIR MINISTRY, LONDON.

TO:- AHQ. MALTA.

INDEXEL

REPEATED: - RAF. MED.M.E.

IMPORTANT.

UNCLASSIFIED.

AP.2917.

May 19th.

Your A.198 May 14th. Informed today that flight of HALTCH cancelled. Regret inconvenience.

Time of origin 131915Z.

COPIES TO:-

A.S.T.C.2. (Crig.)
D.D.A.S.T.C.
S.6.
D.D. of Pol. A.S.2.
M.C.A. Regy. Tels. 2 copies for (A.S.G.1.)
Colonial Office (Mr. Bigg and Mr. Vile) (3 copies)
Foreign Office (Mr. Eden) (2 copies)

A.M. File No. DASTO 3/102 refers.

Ö

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

1/686

Easter Deport provided ?

MCC.

TELEGRAN EN CLAIR.

(Desp.Registry Telegrams May 20th, 1948).

FROM: -

Air Ministry, London.

TO: -

H. . MED.M.E.

RELEATED: -

h.H. Lovent. ...H. . Melta.

INDEXEL

UNCH.SSIFIED. BEEDIATE. 1940. May 20th, 1940.

Reference my A.r. 2354 and A.r. 2917 May 13th. ALFHA AIRWAYS have again requested permission to land RMLT DAVID for purpose of conveying fifteen lessengers from LLESTINE to JCH NNESTURG together with three passengers and freight originating in the U.K. FOREIGN OFFICE have no objections to this flight. Request your advice on whether permission may be given for aircraft to land RILT DAVID May 22nd or as soon after as possible. Request reply to para, two of my 3031 12th may.

Time of (rigin: - 1815.

@@fils To:- D.D....S.T.O.(Crig). S.C., D.D.rol.(...S.)2., Foreign Office (Mr. Edden). Colonial Office (Mr. Vile, Mr. Biggs)., M.C... Regy.T.ls. 2 copies, ...S.G.1.

FILE: - DASTC/3/102, refers.

CYPHER MESSAGE

PW

WARNING.—This cypher message must first be paraphrased if it is necessary to publishits text or to communicate it to persons outside British or United States Government Services and Departments. Messages marked "One-Time Pad" or "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.

PH.

KX.12995.

(Recd. Regy. Tels. 21st May 1948)

FROM:- HO. RAF. MED.M.E.

TO:- AIR MINISTRY, LONDON.

REPEATED: - /HQ. LEV/NT (ADVANCED).

6867 648 3

IMMEDIATE. SECRET.

MULKED

ACX.1698 (or 1028?). May 21st.

1. Your AP.3286 May 20 refers. Regret delay in replying para.2 your AP.3031 May 12. Ramat David will be closed with effect from May 24 repeat May 24. Only airfield with RAF facilities available after this date will be Haifa which can accept light aircraft only.

2. No objection Alpha Airways aircraft landing Ramat David May 22nd but emphasize no refuelling facilities available.

Time of origin 210740Z.

COPIES TO:-

D.D.A.S.T.O. (action) (2 copies)
S.6.
D.D. Pol. (as) 2.
Foreign Office (Mr. Eddon)
Colonial Office (Mr. Vile, Mr. Biggs)
M.C.A. Regy. Tels. 2 copies A.S.G.1.

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371

68646

RECORD. OFFICE

940

Registry E6893/648/31 Number

TELEGRAM FROM Mr Dixon PRAGUE

No. 588 SECRET

Dated

May 20,1948

Received in Registry May 25,1948 Supply of aircraft to Palestine.

Message for the Air Ministry from Air Attache Prague.

It is reported that a number of Czechoslovak aircraft have recently been flown to Palestine by Jewish and foreign pilots. Requests enquiries be made to find out if any aircraft reinforcements have arrived in Palestine.

Last Paper.

E6867.

References.

(Minutes.)

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(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

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2-1P. Rome (el 797 16/6.

Sq1 Nus. 8 4660/9.

4.28: vi

(Action completed.)

Next Paper.

E6918

32003 F.O.P.

371 / 68646

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Cypher/OTP

AIR MINISTRY DISTRIBUTION

FROM PRAGUE TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr Dixon No. 588 20th May, 1948.

D. 2. 34 p.m. 20th May, 1948.

R. 4. 01 p.m. 20th liay, 1948.

Please pass the following to the Air Ministry for Air Attaché Prague as his telegram No. 79 of May 19th.

Secret.

1. Unconfirmed report that number of Czechoslovak aircraft of unspecified types have recently been flown to Palestine by Jewish and foreign pilots. The number 125 was mentioned but possibly an exaggeration. Possible that 25/26 Siebel aircraft at Plzen reported in A.A. 175/48 of April 22nd were being prepared for despatch. Also rumour that Sieber were being modified for dive bombing (paragraph 2 Al88/48 April 29th refers) might have referred to preparation for use in Palestine.

2. Possible partial or complete explanation of report is delivering M.E. 109 to Palestine the rumoured sale of which was referred to in paragraph 4 of AA158/48 of April 14th.

Request enquiries be made to find out if any aircraft reinforcements have arrived in Palestine.

4. [gp.undec. Information] grade [gp.undec? ing them] "Foreign Office" repeat "Foreign Office".

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AIR MINISTRY DISTRIBUTION

FROM ANGORA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir D. Kelly No. 376

Repeated to:

D. 9.50 a.m. 24th May, 1948.

R.11.08 a.m. 84th May, 1948.

24th May, 1948.

H.Q. R.A.F. Mod/ME Air Attache Tehran.

IMPORTANT

SECRET

Addressed Air Ministry London, repeated H.Q. R.A.F. Med/MR, Air Attache Tehran.

(Air Ministry please pass to H.Q. R.A.F. Ned/ME) from Air Attaché Angora.

Telegram No. A179 May 24th.

Your AIX587 of May 21st.

Have no information.

My opinion is that there is little chance aircraft crews, bombs, et cetera leaving Turkey for Palestine Jews.

T.O.O. 240916Z.

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INDEXED

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Cypher/OTP

AIR MINISTRY DISTRIBUTION

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir O. Harvey

No. 737 51st Nay. 1948

D: 2.54 p.m. 51st May, 1948 R: 2.56 p.m. 51st May, 1948

DIPORTANT SECRET

Please pass to Air Ministry.

Aloo Slat Way from Air Attaché Paris.

No information available from Military sources on aircraft staging through France for the Jewish cause in Palestine. Enquiries being made through civil Air Attaché. Will advise results. Request source your report and names of airfields at Paris and Marseilles.

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68646

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Cypher/OTP

AIR MINISTRY DISTRIBUTION

FROM PRAGUE TO FOREIGN OFFICE

MULKED

Mr. Dixon No. 679

D. 10.0 a.m. 12th June, 1948.

12th June. 1948.

R. 11.55 a.m. 12th June, 1948.

SECRET

Please pass to Air Ministry from Air Attache Prague as his telegram No. 94 of June 11th.

For Air Ministry A.F.L.I.

French Military Attaché has had a report from a source which he claimed reliable that 70 Jews are being trained on Arado 96 aircraft at Ceske Budejovice. Source also reports that Czechoslovaks are trying to sell Arado 96 and other aircraft to Israel.

EEREE

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E 6893 648/31 [This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on] \$ 16:vi

CYPHER/OTP

AIR MINISTRY DISTRIBUTION

FROM ROME TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Sir V. Mallet.

D: 10.02 a.m. 16th June, 1948.

16th June, 1948.

R: 11.50 a.m. 16th June, 1948.

IMPORTANT

SECRET

Following for Air Ministry.

[Begins]

Air Ministry please repeat MED/ME from Air Attaché Rome AA208 of June 15th.

Reference your AIX 5445 of June 9th subject Czech Civil Air Line Prague to Palestine, answers to your queries are:

- (1) weekly
- (2) D.C.
- (3) Air contacts will watch future arrivals and endeavour to discover nature of the cargoes. Will report results by signal.
 - (4) Believed no.

@@@

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BLIC BE

371 / 68646

E 6918 28 MAY 1948

Complaint against delivery of British werengt to Townsh forces

a number of Boutesh ourcraft are being flown to Palestine from the UK while no brab country, even though having a treaty with Gr Bartain, can obtain an Export huence for planes or arms. Adds that the collective action of the ara; States is nothing more than the defence of themselves.

(Hynell. 20. m. A (2) m/C.A. (hur.L. Padger)

(Action completed)

Bu

34967

Next Paper E 6953

I don't suppose he really means figurers: they couldn't reach l'alestine eriely without stopping at inconvenient places. But as for as I know we have no Cridence of any avorable being Successfully flown from the UK There were the four

My . W. A. (M. L. Podger)

Drs Bear

frace shallen with Hampton . Howting (A.M.) . M.C.A i they all agree that they know of no substantiated cases, the and laphotographet that then are possible toppholes : we cound deux categorically. I think then for that are uply to the synaus shot. take the form of saying that there are restrictions on the sale of highters, + that we do not allow them to be flown out of the U.K. for Palestine; but that if they can produce any concrete cases of this having been done, un will ask Podjor 18 take dischlung action away the Pilos trining bione. We might also, as you suggest, mention the four Ausous at Rhodes. kunzkukell 18.vi. ? so draft.

> Yes, pre. Better prit lay that if any evidence can be jordned we shall both cito the matter most wrgently Bhue 22 in languated 25 vi

> > Perpatdus.

SH.

LT. 29:41)

apl: 128. Ly want M' Hanston, O.M. Podger / N/CA. My - Keak W.0 Tune 24

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1. [/O June, 1948.

Top Secret. Secret. Confidential. Restricted.

LGT

Draft. Letter

Open.

H.E. the Syrian Minister, Syrian Legation. London

FROM: -

MARGIN

Z

10

NOTHING

Copies to:-Air Ministry -Mr. Hampton Ministry of Civil Aviation Mr. Podger War Office -Major Leask M.I.5 - Mr.Scher

Atall. 25:vi

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to Your Excellency's Note No. 96 of 24th May and to inform you that permits are not for the present being granted for the export of fighter aircraft to Palestine and that it would be illegal for any British fighter aircraft to leave this country for Palestine without such a permit. In any case where this was known to have happened strong disciplinary measures would of course be taken; and if Your Excellency would be so good as to furnish me with more detailed evidence of any such flights paving taken place I should see that it was investigated with the utmost urgency.

In such cases as have already come to their notice His Majesty's Government have taken prompt action, and in this connection I would draw Your Excellency's attention to the case of four Anson aircraft which left the United Kingdom for Palestine without export permits and which have been impounded at Rhodes and have been deprived of their registration certificates.

I have the honour, etc.,

68646

SYRIAN LEGATION LONDON.

W.8.

No.96.

24th May, 1948.

19. Kensington Palace Gardens,

E.6918

26 MAY 1948

Sir,

I have the honour to draw your attention to the fact that a number of British aircraft fighters are being flown to Palestine from the United Kingdom. Some of these are being delivered by British pilots on the continent, and are thus finding their way from there to the Jewish force in Palestine.

This is continuing to happen while no Arab country, even though having a treaty with Great Britain, can obtain a licence for the export of Planes or Arms.

In spite of Jewish protestations to the contrary, as well as their accusations of British policy towards the Arabs, this is going on, and constitutes a very real and unfortunate fact.

I should like to add on this occasion, that the collective action of the Arab States is nothing more than the defence of themselves and the Middle East, against organised invasion on such a scale, by Peoples of another continent, that could threaten International peace.

I have the honour to be, Sir, with the highest consideration.

Your obedient Servant.

h. armanazi

Minister.

The Rt. Hon. Ernest Bevin. M.P., The Foreign Office, Whitehall. S.W.1.

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FOREIGH OFFICE, S.W.1.

No./E 6918/648/31

24th June, 1946.

Your Excellency.

I have the honour to state that I have carefully noted the information contained in Your Freellency's note No. 96 of Lay 24th about the alleged export of Eritish fighter aircraft from the United Kingdom to Palestine for the use of the Jewish forces.

Copris as mE6918

His Majesty's Government are strictly enforcing the embargo on the supply of war material to both the Jewish authorities and the Arab States covered by the Security's Council's resolvente in regard to a 'cease fire' in Palestine. Moreover, before the Security Council's resolution was passed His Majesty's Government were enforcing the embargo on the supply of arms to either party in Palestine. It would therefore be illegal for any fighter aircraft to be exported from the United Mingdom to Palestine and no evidence is available that aircraft have been so exported. Should Tour Excellency be in possession of such evidence I should be very grateful to receive it so that the matter might be firestigated.

I have the honour to be, with the highest consideration,

Your Excellency's obedient Servant, (For the Secretary of State)

His Excellency Dr. Hajeeb al-Armanazi. etc., etc., etc., 19, Kensington Palace Gardens. O 371/68646

E 6918/648/31.

29th June, 1948.

Your Excellency,

I have the benow to state that I have carefully meted the information contained in Your Excellency's note No. 96 of May 24tr about the alleged export of British fighter eigeraft from the United Kingdom to Palestine for the use of the Jewish forces.

embargo on the supply of war material to both the Jewish authorities and the Arab States covered by the Security's Council's resolution in Jegard to a 'cease fire' in Palestime. Moreover, before the Security Council's resolution was passed His Majesty's Government were enforcing an embargo on the supply of arms to either party in Palestime. It would therefore be illegal for any fighter aircraft to be exported from the United Kingdom to Palestime and no evidence is available that simpaft have been so exported. Should Your Excellency be in possession of such evidence I should be very grateful to receive it so that the matter might be closely investigated.

I have the honour to be, with the highest consideration.
Your Excellency's obedient servent,
(For the Secretary of State)

L.F.L.Pyman.

His Excellency,
Dr. Najecb al-Armanesi,
etc., etc., etc.,
19, Kensington Palece Gardens,
W.S.

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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Following document(s) retained in the Department of origin under Section 3 (4) of the Public Records Act, 1958

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Cypher/CTP

AIR MINISTRY DISTRIBUTION .

FROM ROME TO FOREIGH OFFICE.

Sir V. Mallet.

No. 907.

27th May, 1948.

D. 10.29 s.c. 28th Lay, 1948 R. 1.13 p. 1. 28th Lay, 1948

ILPORTALT. SECRET. E.7128

to Foreign Office and Frague.

Reference H.C. ADDE signal AIX 384 of May 21st 1948. It has become apparent that many activities are in progress in Italy regarding supply of aircraft and ammunition to the Jews in Palestine. Head of local organisation is believe to be Dutch Jew named Van Havr.

- 2. Prior to may 15th there were reports that some II Anson and DH Rapide aircraft registered in United Kingdom moving round Murope under the guise of tour flights. Filot of one aircraft spoke freely and stated that he thought the aircraft had been purchased in different places and then flown to United Kingdom for overhaul and C of A. Filots were to fly around killing time until may 15th and then try to make their way to relestine as the Jews required aircraft for carrying supplies to outlying communal farms. Some of these aircraft were impounded when they landed at Rhodes. Italian authorities were asked to hold others in the absence of proper clearance from United Kingdom.
- Reliable source states that the Italian Government has recently granted export licence for some 15 tons of arms and ammunition which are now awaiting transport by sea or sir. Further 8 to 10 tons reported awaiting despatch from United States subject to onward transportation by air from Italy. Italian airlines not yet participating in air traffic to Palestine but companies are pressing authorities to permit such flights. Authorities have so far refused on the pretext that they are still bound by terms of the peace treaty. Some British companies reputed anxious to unvertake this traffic but hesitating because uncertain regarding insurance aspect i.e. war risk premiums may make such operations too expensive. Charter companies are obviously feeling their way and looking for remunerative traffic of this nature.
- 4. Probably, however, the greatest activity in air transport will come from America. Company known as service Airways registered in Lew York appears to be the mainspring. Arrangements have already been made for supply of 8 Curtis Commando C-46 aircraft registered in Panama. These aircraft are coming into Catania and Sicily from Casablanca and giving final destination as Frague. Each is reputed to be carrying fighter aircraft of unknown type and five have already gone through. Remaining three are following.
 - 5. In addition to the above, two American Morseman

/aircraft have recently

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

371

aircraft have recently proceeded to Palestine. A third crashed in Rome prior to flight and killed both occupants.

As are indergoing training at Urbe airport near Rome by firm knew of them. Training at present taking place on light there are rumours that more advanced aircraft will soon be available. Organisation of this training seems to have been very thorough and all necessary equitable for an are provided.

Important stress that although source normally reliable it has not been possible to check above information.

Fereign Office pass to Air Ministry.

0:0

UBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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1948

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E7171/648/31

TELEGRAM FROM Mr Greenway PANAMA

No. 62

Dated

May 27,1948

Received

in Registry May 31,1948

Activities of Lineas Aerasde Pamana

Refers to Panama telegram 61 of May 25 (E6953/648/31)

Substance of information contained in above telegram was published in the press on May 25th. Cuttings follow.

Last Paper.

E7128

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Panama.

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(Action completed.)

Next Paper.

E 8074

(Minutes.)

JB Man 31

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32003 F.O.P.

CYPHER/OTP

FROM PANAMA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Greenway. No. 62.

D: 6.35 p.m.327

27th May, 1948.

R: 1.41 a.m. 28th May, 1948.

Repeated to: Washington.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 62 of 27th May repeated to Washington.

My telegram No. 61 of 25th May.

Civil Aviation.

Substance of information contained in paragraphs 1 and 3 of my telegram under reference was published in local press on 25th May. Cuttings follow by air mail.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat]

000



RECORD OFFICE

68646

Confidential
Restricte

The Cy Panama from Eastern Dept.

Dear Chancery.

Your Astyrams nos 57 and 59 about LINEA AEREOS PANAMENA. We shd: be grateful if you wd: be so kind as to let us have a copy A your letter 22/19/48 of 4th May le the Air Attaché GUATEMACA, if You have not already down so.

> Yes: Eor Eastern Dept. 421:01

119

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

22nd June, 1948.

(E 7171/648/31)

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Chancery,

Your telegrams Nos. 57 and 59 about Linea Aereos Panamena.

We should be grateful if you would be so kind as to let us have a copy of your letter 22/19/48 of the 4th May to the Air Attaché Guatemala, if you have not already done so.

Yours ever,

EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

The Chancery,
British Legation,
Panama.

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371

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group. 5.0 Class. 3.7.1 Piece. 6.26.46

Following document(s) retained in the Department of origin under Section 3 (4) of the Public Records Act, 1958

E 8074/648/3|
E 8437 4 4
E 9477 4 4

371 / 68646

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Reference:-